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# THE TIMES

Bernard Levin's  
Christmas  
quiz, page 10

## Chancellor is cautiously hopeful over pay limit

Mr Healey told the Cabinet, yesterday that, judging by the agreements made so far under the present phase of the pay policy, there was hope of holding wage settlements at about the Government's limit. The policy received support during the day when the bakery workers ended their dispute and the busmen and merchant seamen accepted offers said to be within the guidelines.

## Inflation may be cut sooner than expected

By George Clark  
Political Correspondent

In a review of progress made so far in the present phase of the pay policy, the Cabinet received a fairly encouraging report yesterday from Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and other ministers directly involved about the prospects of holding earnings rise settlements at about the Government's guidelines.

It was an interim assessment because not many wage bargains have been made yet, but judging by those that have been made it seemed that the figure is running at 11.5 to 12 per cent. That is not regarded as being a serious setback.

Mr Healey said that most of the important settlements would come between February and April next year, and they might alter the prediction a great deal. But the agreement reached on the local authority, manual workers' claim, which was within the pay guidelines, is expected to set the pattern for many future settlements, including that of the National Health Service workers.

Provided the present pattern can be maintained, Mr Healey said, the inflation rate could be brought down to a single figure by the spring, perhaps earlier than has been expected, and that it would be held below a target for the remainder of next year.

Again, a strong caveat was entered about the level of next year's wage settlements.

After a three-hour discussion, ministers apparently decided that things were going reasonably well, but there was no need to consider a change in policy, or to introduce special measures relating to lower-paid workers, who have been the particular concern of Mr Booth, Secretary of State for Employment.

He has been arguing for a plan that would give a guaranteed minimum pay increase of about 4 1/2 per cent to those earning below £40 a week which, in some groups, would be well outside the guidelines.

Mr Callaghan and other ministers thought that the main point to be emphasized now was that, against the background of a falling inflation rate and the present level of wage settlements, all workers can expect an increase in their standard of living next year, for the first time since 1975.

According to figures given to the Cabinet yesterday there are no grounds for suggesting, as some opposition spokesmen and Mr Peter Walker, Conservative MP for Worcester, have done, that the real increase in earnings is running at an average of 17 to 17 1/2 per cent and that the inflation rate is bound to increase again in the second half of next year.

The Treasury has put forward estimates of the consequences that would follow if earnings increase by 10 per cent overall, or by 15 per cent. Mr Healey said privately that he would reckon the present phase of the pay policy will have been worth while if the final result turns out to be closer to 10 than 15 per cent.

Ministers heard about some "aberrations" from the guidelines, but they were not regarded as being too damaging to the general trend.

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## Police initiative fails to halt wave of racial violence against Asians

An increasing number of racial attacks against Asians are taking place in the East End of London, despite special police measures aimed at preventing them. Michael Horsnell and Penny Symon report.

Mr Sharma, 41, could no longer stand the agony of racial violence against him and his family after one of his young daughters had been killed on her way to the shops to buy some groceries. For Mr Ali, a Bengali, aged 45, isolated in a community of whites in a council block in the East End, it was the culmination of a vicious campaign of harassment aimed at forcing him to leave.

Stones had been thrown through his windows, eggs and tomatoes at his wife and four children, and the whole family had been frequently jostled and abused. Mr Ali went to the Greater London Council and was rebuffed.

The experience of the Ali family is only one episode in a wave of racial violence against Asians in the area, which reached a peak earlier this year. Inquiries by The Times show that despite a new approach taken by the police in the summer after protests to the Home Office by the Bangladesh High Commission, indictable assaults have remained at what community leaders regard as an alarming level.

Police attempts to encourage the 7,000 to 10,000 Asians who live in the East End to report all assaults also appear to have failed so far. We also found that a growing number of Asian children, particularly Sikhs living just outside the East End in Leyton and Walthamstow, are taking part in self-defence classes arranged for them.

Cases of violence against Asians in the East End examined by The Times include: An attack on Mr Samad Khan, aged 45, a tailor and president of the Bangladesh Association. He was rushed by three youths, one of whom threw a bottle at his head, but he escaped. This sort of thing is commonplace, so I knew it would be useless to report it to the police," he told us.

An assault on Mr Shakur Miah, aged 24, who was rushed by a crowd of white youths and stabbed in the right shoulder. His relatives are incensed by the fact that the attack took place at 5.45 pm in a busy street. No one came forward as a witness.

Mr Subh Choudhury, aged 27, a waiter, was attacked by four youths on his way to a telephone box. Two of them held his arms while the others punched him in the face.

An attack on Mr Rajat Ullah, aged 63, by three youths at the entrance of the block of flats where he lives. He was left with a broken nose and other facial injuries. It was the second attack he had suffered. Unusually, two of the three attackers were black.

An elderly man was kicked on the ground by two youths at midnight and lost four teeth. He received other head injuries.

Of all indictable assaults reported to the police last year in Tower Hamlets, the borough at the heart of the East End, comprising the rough districts of Stepney, Poplar and Bethnal Green, about an eighth were against Asians.

That proportion rose to about a fifth during the first six months of this year, when 42 out of 216 assaults reported to police were against Asians.

After consultations with the Home Office the police decided in June to introduce home beat officers to the Spitalfields district, one of the most violent. A liaison committee of police and local community leaders was set up to encourage Asian victims of assault to report to the police. That committee has been meeting monthly since September, but is regarded as unhelpful by some leaders of the Asian community.

Statistics being analysed by lawyers and social workers indicate that the ratio of attacks on Asians, who are thought to number up to a fourteenth of the population of Tower Hamlets, has not decreased since the police introduced their new measures.

A dossier on the violence is being compiled by Bethnal Green and Stepney Trades Council, which will present it to the police, the Home Office and local organizations in the spring.

More than a hundred cases of violence in the past six months have so far been examined. Allowing for a proportion of incidents not reported to the police and some minor ones, early analysis of the situation shows that little has altered in recent months.

Lawyers and social workers are examining cases to see whether outbreaks of violence can be linked to growing National Front and other anti-immigrant activity in the area. Mr Golam Mustafa, secretary of Brick Lane Mosque, Whitechapel, told us: "People are frightened to go out because

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## Union fines postmen for Grunwick blockade

By Paul Routledge  
Labour Editor

Local members of the Union of Post Office Workers, who defied their national leadership and imposed a small blockade on the Grunwick film processing factory, have been fined a total of £1,500 by a union disciplinary tribunal.

The disciplinary committee has imposed fines ranging from £50 to £500 on key officials who refused to abide by instructions not to interrupt mail to the factory.

The internal union dispute began in August, when the postal section of the union's London area council instructed sorters and delivery men not to handle Grunwick mail after mass picketing began outside the plant in Willesden, north London.

Union leaders, anxious about the effect that such a move would have on their attempt to restore the freedom of postal workers to take strike action in pursuit of a genuine industrial settlement, repeatedly told the rebels not to "black Grunwick".

The union's disciplinary committee has fined its district organiser, Mr John Taylor, £500, and his assistant Mr Derek Walsh, £400. Further fines of £150 have been levied on two members of the London district council, Mr Joseph Nulty, and Mr Edward Lee.

In the Cricklewood sorting office, where the effect of industrial action in support of the Grunwick strikers was to cut off postal deliveries to the NW2 area, two members of the local union committee, Mr Douglas Taylor and Mr Derek Saunders, have each been fined £50.

The disciplinary committee, which has six members, chosen from the union's executive, based its punishment on union instructions that industrial action should not be taken without the express authority of the executive, particularly in the light of an undertaking in the High Court not to interfere with Grunwick's mail. That pledge had been given after legal action taken by the National Association for Freedom.

The officials who have been fined have three weeks in which to appeal against the penalties. Even if their appeal fails they are permitted three days to pay under union rules.

The feeling in senior union circles last night was that the men would not appeal. The union, and its sister in the industry, the Post Office Engineering Union, is relying on government promises to introduce a legal right to strike that has apparently been rejected by the courts.

In the circumstances the union feels confident that such internal disciplinary measures will convince MPs that the postal unions want the right to take industrial action in pursuit of their own ambitions on pay and conditions, rather than to stage secondary boycotts for more distant political ends.

Leading article, page 11

Princess Anne with her son, Peter, after he had been baptized by the Archbishop of Canterbury at Buckingham Palace yesterday. (Court Circular, another photograph, page 12.)



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## Tate & Lyle sues ATV for libel

By Kenneth Gosling

Proceedings for libel are being taken by Tate and Lyle against ATV Network over Working for Britain, a documentary film, which was shown on the commercial network on Wednesday. ATV said yesterday that it had received information which led them to believe such attacks were possible in preparation. He warned motorists leaving the capital for country resorts that it would be foolhardy to travel after dark.

Paroles and precautions already in operation would be maintained throughout the holiday period, he added.

Police teams of men and women now patrol the busy, brightly decorated Christmas shopping areas of Salisbury, checking bags and parcels.

The only major guerrilla attack so far made in Salisbury in five years of war between the white minority Government and nationalist guerrillas occurred last August. On August 6 a package bomb exploded in a city centre square killing 11 people and wounding more than 70. A week later, an explosion damaged a shopping precinct near Mr Ian Smith's office.

The incidents jolted Salisbury into the feeling of relative security that it had enjoyed while the guerrilla war was fought in remote bush areas.

In the middle of this year, a special operational area was created for the capital itself. Police reservists with shaggy beards and mustaches appeared almost every day on a street, sent it off and checked pedestrians and vehicles.

Reuter. Dar Es Salaam: Mozambique said today that information obtained from captured spies showed that Rhodesia was preparing another major military offensive against targets inside Mozambique, using Mirage fighter-bombers, heavy artillery, motorized infantry and airborne troops. — UPI.

Hard going at talks, page 5

## Christmas alert in Salisbury

Salisbury, Dec 22.—Police have been placed on full alert for a possible outbreak of guerrilla attacks in Salisbury during the Christmas season.

Mr Ian Hogg, the Assistant Commissioner, said today that the attacks could take the form of package or letter bombs or an assault by a group of black guerrillas.

He told reporters that police had received information which led them to believe such attacks were possible in preparation. He warned motorists leaving the capital for country resorts that it would be foolhardy to travel after dark.

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Hard going at talks, page 5

## Bakers call off ban on overtime

By Christopher Thomas  
Labour Reporter

The bakery workers' overtime ban was called off yesterday when bread supplies will be normal almost everywhere from today.

The decision resulted from a hurriedly convened meeting of the union's 57,000 members in England and Wales on a revised pay offer that emerged from 11 hours of talks with the employers on Wednesday.

Throughout yesterday the union's 57,000 branches telephoned their responses to the head office in Hatfield. The Bakers, Food and Allied Workers' Union announced early in the afternoon that there was a "massive majority" in favour of acceptance.

A union statement said: "After consulting the majority of the executive we find we are left with no alternative but to instruct our members to resume normal working forthwith."

The revised offer is being studied by the Department of Employment but the employers are confident that it does not breach the 10 per cent guideline on earnings rises.

The Bakers' Federation expressed "considerable relief" at the decision.

The offer varies for the six groups of bakery workers. For a typical production operative the basic of £28.30 will go up by £4, and £5.05 of the present supplement of £12.90 a week will be consolidated, so that they count in overtime and premium pay calculations.

## Busmen and seamen accept 10pc

By Donald Macintyre  
Labour Reporter

The Government received modest encouragement for its pay policy yesterday when 85,000 busmen and 34,000 merchant seamen.

Delegates representing staff of the National Bus Company, the Seafarers' Union and other transport operators, voted to accept a 10 per cent pay offer.

Representatives of the 6,500 National Union of Railwaymen members covered by the deal voted against acceptance, but a majority of mainly Transport and General Workers' Union members carried the day.

A ballot of National Union of Seafarers members was in favour of accepting 10 per cent, extra leave and a productivity supplement.

The dollar staged a strong recovery yesterday after President Carter said the American government would intervene on the foreign exchange markets to protect the currency if necessary. He also said steps would be taken to reduce the country's trade deficit and the oil import bill. Sterling dropped by nearly three cents on the day to close at \$1.853, with the effective rate down 0.4 at 64. However, dealers said the market's view of the pound would not become clear until the new year.

The Sports Council's appointment of the Rev Nicolas Stacey as its next director has been vetoed by Mr Howell, Minister of State for Sport. The ministry has not disclosed a reason. Mr Stacey, a former international sprinter and finalist in the 1952 Olympics, is director of social services for Kent.

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## Dollar recovers on President's support speech

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## Rush to buy whisky

A big rush to buy whisky had some supermarkets reporting that they would be sold out by Saturday. That follows the Distillers' Company's threat to raise prices and withdraw some brands to comply with an EEC Commission ruling. A further rush to buy whisky is expected today.

£200-a-day manager  
Mr Ronnie Allen, the West Bromwich Albion manager, has accepted an offer to become Saudi Arabia's national football manager. His contract, for 16 months, is worth £100,000 or £200 a day, tax free.

'Harsh' to children  
The report of a public inquiry into an assessment centre at Salford says that outmoded institutional practices and insensitive and harsh treatment of children. Among allegations, it was found that one boy was picked up by his head and ears by the wardens.

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## The Euronauts

Western Europe's first man in space will be from a short list of four selected to train for a seven-day spaceflight mission in 1980 and announced in Paris by the European Space Agency. The four are an Italian, a German, a Dutchman and a Swiss. Only one will make the journey.

Equality pledge  
Government measures to ensure that women will receive benefits equal to men in earnings-related schemes covering sickness, unemployment or retirement will be introduced next year, the House of Lords Select Committee on European Communities says.

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WE, THE LIMBLESS, LOOK TO YOU FOR HELP

We come from both world wars. We come from Kenya, Malaya, Aden, Cyprus... and from Ulster. From keeping the peace no less than from war we limbless look to you for help.

And you can help, by helping our Association. BLESMA (the British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association) looks after the limbless from all the Services. It helps, with advice and encouragement, to overcome the shock of losing arms, or legs or an eye. It sees that red-tape does not stand in the way of the right entitlement to pension. And, for the severely handicapped and the elderly, it provides Residential Homes where they can live in peace and dignity.

Help BLESMA, please. We need money desperately. And, we promise you, not a penny of it will be wasted.

British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association



# Government is to give women equality with men in pensions and unemployment pay

By George Clark

Political Correspondent

Government measures to ensure that women will receive benefits equal to men in earnings-related schemes covering sickness, unemployment or retirement will be taken next year, the House of Lords Select Committee on European Communities says.

The committee has been hearing evidence on an EEC draft directive on equal treatment for the sexes in social security payments. Its report was issued yesterday.

Previously earned pension rights will be protected during the years that a woman may stay at home, and the right to inherit the spouse's pension rights and to build on to those rights will be introduced, the report says. The result will be that in the area of pensions, the United Kingdom will easily fulfil the terms of the draft EEC directive.

The committee, under the chairmanship of Lady Seear, a Liberal, says that equality of treatment in supplementary and family benefits offered more difficulties. At present, supplementary benefit is claimed by the head of the family, who, in the case of all married or cohabiting couples, is deemed to be the man.

"The resources and requirements of the whole household are aggregated and treated as his for the purpose of a claim and only he is required to register for work," the report says.

"If she is at work, the claim is not debarred but if he is in full-time work the family is excluded from benefit. We understand that the whole system of supplementary benefits is under review and ways of achieving equality of treatment are being considered."

As part of the review, the Government is considering whether supplementary benefit should in future be based on the individual, the family, or the household.

"With an individual-based scheme," the report says, "the draft directive, if enacted, could be applied to the supplementary benefit scheme without difficulty. With a family-based scheme, equal treatment could probably be achieved with additional complications and additional obligations for women. We favour an individual-based scheme."

The committee says the United Kingdom did not pay such high child-benefit rates as, for example, France. Instead, it was paid in respect of the child through child-

dependency increases in supplementary benefit. "We think that, were the United Kingdom to move towards the Continental system and increase child benefits at the expense of child dependency increases, then some of the inequality would be removed."

The committee says that family income supplement (FIS) in the United Kingdom is actually discriminating because only the "head of the household" may apply for it and a married woman who is the family breadwinner is therefore not entitled to receive it.

"The draft directive does not cover FIS and we feel that there is a case for extending its list of contingencies to include the contingency of low earnings."

In evidence, the committee heard that the TUC and the Equal Opportunities Commission believe that pension entitlement should begin at the same age for men and women.

The peers urge that an actuarial costing of such entitlement should be conducted because they think that some of the assumptions lying behind recent cost estimates have not been valid.

House of Lords Select Committee on European Communities: Social Security, Draft Directive 79/48/EEC on equality of treatment for men and women (Strasbourg, Office: 89p).

## Howell veto of Sport's Council's new chief

Mr Howell, Minister of State for Sport, has vetoed the appointment of the Rev Nicolas Stacey as the next director of the Sports Council. No reason was given in the letter from the ministry to the Sports Council announcing the decision, or to Mr Stacey.

Mr Stacey, a former international sprinter and finalist in the 1952 Helsinki Olympics, refused to comment last night. He is director of social services for Kent and has been deputy director of Oxford.

The Sports Council, which has an annual budget of £10m, is independent but under its charter must have the minister of state's approval for its director. It met on Monday before putting forward Mr Stacey's name to succeed Mr Walker Winterbottom.

Sir Robin Brook, the council chairman, said: "We regret what has happened and there are no reasons given in the letter from the minister's department. This will inevitably increase the delay and the uncertainty and anxiety that this creates."

No further meeting of the council is planned between Christmas. When it does meet members will have the option of reappointing Mr Stacey's name or choosing a new nominee from their original short-list of eight.

Mr Howell's office said the reasons for all appointments that were made or not made were always kept confidential.



The Ali family, who were forced by harassment to leave their home.

## Newspaper sued over notices of dismissal

The management of the Manchester Evening News is being taken to court after sending dismissal notices to more than a hundred journalists. The application for an injunction will take place tomorrow, at a special sitting of the Chancery division of the High Court in Preston.

All the paper's editorial staff were dismissed on Wednesday. The management contended that they had dismissed themselves by working to contract. Journalists say they had not had a pay increase for 20 months. They had agreed to a 10 per cent pay rise provided it was paid by Christmas. But because payment was delayed they had been working to contract.

Mr David Goddard, the paper's crime reporter, issued the writ. It seeks a declaration that a contract of employment between him and the company has not been ended by either party, and an injunction restraining the company from acting as though the contract had been ended.

## Big rush to buy whisky after price rise threat

By Patricia Tisdall

Big increases in whisky sales were reported by off-licences yesterday after the Distillers Company's threat to raise prices and withdraw some brands from the British market in order to comply with an EEC Commission ruling. The Tesco supermarket group said it would be sold out of Johnnie Walker Red Label whisky by Saturday. A further rush is expected today for Dimple Haig, another brand that Distillers announced will no longer be marketed in this country.

Commenting on the actions that Distillers is planning to comply with the edict to stop double pricing, the commission has said that "in no way requires the company to increase its prices in Britain."

The alternative would have been for the company to have reduced its export price. Additional moves announced by Distillers yesterday include plans to launch a new brand of whisky to replace the popular Johnnie Walker Red Label.

The company would give no details other than saying that the project was only at the drawing-board stage at present. Meanwhile, Distillers, which is the largest of the Scotch whisky producers, is hoping that by pegging the price of Haig, another of its brands, and ceasing to sell that variety in Europe it can avoid loss of sales.

A full-scale inquiry into the future of the whisky industry, including tax rates, exports and EEC rulings, was called for by Mr Taylor, shadow Secretary of State for Scotland and Conservative MP for Cathcart, in Glasgow yesterday.

Other MPs, including Mr Robin Corbett, Labour MP for Hemel Hempstead, and Mr Bryan Gould, Labour MP for Southampton, Test, also objected to the threatened increase.

Distillers has already started preparing an application to the Price Commission to raise the prices of some brands. Leading article, page 11. Business News, page 14.

## Policeman and soldiers hurt in Belfast

A policeman and at least two soldiers were injured in two explosions in Belfast last night. They were trying to clear part of Lisburn Road when the bombs, left outside shops, exploded. Both shops caught fire.

The policeman suffered serious leg injuries. The soldiers were struck by bomb splinters but were not thought to be seriously hurt.

Earlier yesterday two bombs exploded outside a furniture store in Shore Road. A warning was given and no injuries were reported.

## Raiders thwarted

Bullet-proof glass surrounding the wages staff saved the Christmas pay packets of St James's Hospital workers, at Balham, London, yesterday. Armed raiders fled empty-handed.

## Trades council preparing dossier on race violence

Continued from page 1

of the danger of being beaten up in the streets, and they really believed that something was being done when the liaison committee was set up.

"As a community leader, I am constantly being asked for advice on what is being done to help us. I am asked who has been arrested for the assaults. I have to say that no one has been arrested."

Mr Mustafa's sons, aged 10 and 12, are learning self-defence. The committee is simply a talking shop," he added. "We talk to the police, they feel they have done their duty in meeting us, but that does not help the person attacked in the street."

The police said statistics were not kept on prosecutions for assault against Asians. Chief Inspector John Walker, community liaison officer, accepted that Asians were subjected to racial violence, but defended

police action taken as the most suitable for dealing with the situation.

A new campaign is expected to be launched soon to ensure that the local community gets to know the home-based officers assigned to protect it. Leaflets with their pictures will be distributed, giving details in several languages on how to make contact with them.

But difficulties traditionally faced by the police in dealing with violence against Asians persist. Mr Walker said: "When an assault happens we often have the greatest difficulty in getting them to assist us. Many of them do not speak English. When we want them to identify an assailant, to go to court to give evidence, they are very reluctant to do so."

Revelation articles in the East End and the Bengalis get their share of it, but there is a great deal of exaggeration about the extent to which they suffer. It is not a place where people walk in fear.

## Police think arsonist caused woman's death

An elderly widow who died in a fire in a flat over her shop at Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, was thought yesterday to be the victim of an arsonist who has tried to burn down three other shops in the town in the past 10 days.

Cambridgeshire police began a murder-style inquiry into the death of Mrs Lillian King, aged 80, who was suffocated by smoke in her home in Little Church Street on Wednesday night.

The police said yesterday that the first two arson attempts were on December 13, when damage estimated at £580 was caused to a Wimpy bar. On December 18 burning material was pushed through the letterbox of a shop, but died out without causing damage.

Det Chief Supt Charles Naan said: "The seat of the fire in which Mrs King died appears to have been near the front door, and in the absence of other evidence we assume that this was a further attempt by an arsonist to burn the shop down."

Extra policemen from the Cambridgeshire force were moved into Wisbech yesterday to reinforce day and night patrols.

The police yesterday were investigating a fire that badly damaged an empty Carlsberg brewery warehouse at Northampton. The building, which is listed as of architectural interest, may have to be demolished.

Firemen prepared to break

the strike to save lives are being locked out of fire stations and prevented from getting at life-saving equipment. Fire Brigades Union officials said yesterday, Mr Anthony Morris, chairman of the West Sussex branch of the union, said: "We feel that the county council must take full responsibility for any tragedy that may result."

West Sussex County Council said: "Security at fire stations has been stepped up after a break-in at Horsham fire station, where boots and protective clothing belonging to part-time firemen were tampered with."

Mr Morris said: "The county council has secured fire stations in such a way that we cannot gain access without breaking in." He added that the police had confirmed that if striking firemen did break into fire stations for vital life-saving equipment they would be liable to prosecution.

Four detachments of army detachments from Colchester Military Corrective Training Centre are taking over fire duties from men of the Staffordshire Regiment who were being sent to Christmas leave from Clacton and Dovercourt. The men, serving up to one year's detention, will be confined to their bases during off-duty hours.

Leaders of striking firemen in Leicester are to urge their union today to recall the delegate conference to work out new tactics so that pay negotiations have more room to manoeuvre.

## Miners may act against a part-time fireman

From Tim Jones

Cardiff

Mr Robert Taylor, a miner, has been causing embarrassment to the National Union of Mineworkers in South Wales by insisting on his right to continue as a part-time fireman during the strike by members of the Fire Brigades Union.

In spite of union instructions to the contrary, Mr Taylor has been turning up for duty at Blaenau fire station, Gwent.

In a tactical move designed to give him a final chance to consider his position, the executive of the union has decided to allow him to continue to work as a fireman. Mr Taylor has said that he is not prepared to give any assurances because his conscience would not allow him to do so.

"I do not see how the National Union of Mineworkers can get involved because it is something I do in my spare time," he says.

yesterday that Mr Taylor had said he could not ignore a fire where lives might be endangered. "But we have a letter from the Fire Brigades Union making just that point. So his argument falls on that score," he said.

It would not like to predict what would happen to him if he crosses over his picket line. We shall be asking national officials for legal clarification. Unfortunately, Mr Taylor seems to be enjoying the embarrassment he is causing to the trade union movement. I should not like to be him in the weeks ahead."

Mr Taylor has said that he is not prepared to give any assurances because his conscience would not allow him to do so.

## Mobility cash for Down's boy sets no precedent

By A. Staff Reporter

The successful campaign that established the right of a mentally handicapped boy of 12 to receive mobility allowance does not mean that all people with his condition, Down's syndrome, automatically qualify for benefits.

That is the verdict of Mr Rowland Temple, the chief National Insurance Commissioner, who last week dismissed an appeal by the Department of Health and Social Security against the award of mobility allowance to Robert Edmunds, of Worcester, who has Down's syndrome and walks only a few yards.

His parents first claimed the allowance for him 15 months ago, but found that the department planned to oppose it. Mr Morris, Under-Secretary of State for the Disabled, said it

was to be a test case to establish a policy of law and equity in uniformity, consistency and equity in awards. He had hoped the boy would win.

Mr Temple, who had promised to give his reasons for finding in favour of the boy, said he had to have decided that all sufferers from his complaint are qualified to receive mobility allowance. I do not regard the appeal as being decisive of any other case.

"The rules for entitlement to mobility allowance state that an applicant should be unable or virtually unable to walk through physical disablement. In some people, that seemed to disregard the physical implications of various forms of mental handicap, including Down's syndrome, which frequently means that the sufferer has mobility difficulties."



## Buzby's helpful hints on festive phone calls and telegrams to nearest and dearest

"I'm phoning all the people I'm not seeing over the holiday to wish them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. After all, it's Cheap Rate on Christmas Day, Boxing Day (except in Scotland), and New Year's Day."

However, I'm going to bear in mind that on Christmas Day (New Year's Day

in Scotland) a lot of the operators will be with their families and services will be restricted. I've noted the various arrangements you can see below and I'll also make sure I've got any information I need from Directory Enquiries well before the holiday."

### INLAND TELEGRAMS

Inland Telegrams can be accepted by telephone at any time during the holiday but delivery will be limited as below.

To addresses in England, Wales, N. Ireland, Isle of Man and Channel Isles	Dec 25	Dec 26	Dec 27
Life & Death only	Life & Death only	Public Holiday service	
To addresses in Scotland	Life & Death only	Sunday service	Sunday service
To addresses in England, Wales, N. Ireland, Isle of Man and Channel Isles	Sunday service	Public Holiday service (Isle of Man only)	Normal Service (Isle of Man only)
To addresses in Scotland	Life & Death only	Sunday service	Sunday service

Telegrams to be delivered on days when there is a Public Holiday or Sunday service must be handed in by 9 a.m. on those days.

For telegrams to the Irish Republic please check with the telegram operator.

Christmas Day	Cheap Rate for all calls. Operator Service Restrictions (see below) (Normal operator service in Scotland)
Boxing Day	Cheap Rate for all calls (except those originated in Scotland where normal Mon-Fri rates apply). Normal Operator Service
New Year's Day	Cheap Rate for all calls. Operator Service Restrictions in Scotland only (see below)

Operators on duty on Christmas Day (New Year's Day in Scotland) will deal with 990 calls and calls to places which cannot normally be dialled, including transfer charge calls from coinboxes to such places. Except in cases of emergency or distress they cannot deal with any other kind of call or enquiry.

"I think it's a good idea to cut these panels out and pin them up somewhere to remind you of what's happening."

Post Office Telecommunications We're here to help you.

## Motor insurance premiums to go up by 9 per cent

By Our Financial Staff

More than a million motorists face a 9 per cent increase in insurance premiums from February 1. Announcing the proposed rise, General Accident Fire & Life Assurance also said that could not rule out a further adjustment later next year because of an increase in the frequency of claims and the rising cost of accident repairs and court awards for injuries. The group's rates were raised by 12 per cent last February.

A redesignation of premium rating areas, however, means that motorists living in Suffolk, Salop and parts of Oxfordshire, Lancashire and Powys will not be affected by the rise. The exemption applies to between 50,000 and 70,000 drivers.

General Accident, Britain's largest motor insurer, with more than 11 per cent of the market, is also to increase the maximum vehicle indemnity value from £4,000 to £5,000. But excess rates for cars valued at more than £5,000 will be increased by 50p to £5 on a comprehensive policy. For third party, fire and theft the excess is to be raised by 25p to £2.50 for each £500.

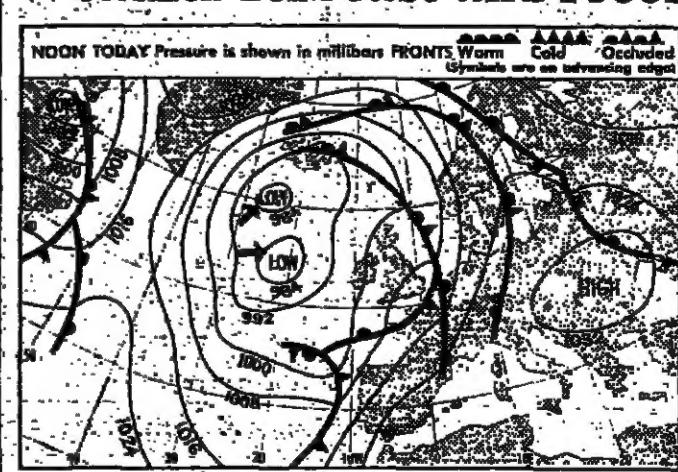
Presley fan's suicide

Mr Bernard Pearl, the corner, recorded a verdict at Hornsey, London, yesterday, that Paul Ashman, aged 17, of Edmonton, killed himself. An Elvis Presley fan, the youth swallowed cyanide after the singer's death.

Two prisoners escape

Two prisoners escaped from Shepton Mallet Prison, Somerset, yesterday by forcing a window, climbing on to a roof and using knotted wire to descend to the street, the Home Office said.

## Weather forecast and recordings



**Today**  
Sun rises: 8.3 am. Sun sets: 3.55 pm.  
Moon rises: 5.47 am. Moon sets: 2.58 pm.  
Full moon: December 25.  
Lighting up: 4.25 pm to 7.35 am.  
High water: London Bridge, 12.17 am, 6.2m (22.3ft); 12.33 pm, 6.5m (21.5ft).  
Low water: London Bridge, 11.7m (38.3ft); 6.5 am, 1.9m (6.2ft); 6.5 pm, 6.9m (22.6ft).  
E. 4.31 am, 6.4m (21.0ft).  
4.57 pm, 6.7m (22.0ft).  
Low water: 9.56 am, 8.4m (27.7ft); 10.12 pm, 8.5ft (27.7ft).

A mild SW air mass persists with troughs moving across the United Kingdom.  
Forecast for 6 am to midnight:  
London, SE, central S and SW England, East Anglia, E Midlands, Channel Islands: Rain at times; wind: SW, moderate, increasing; fresh; max temp 12°C (54°F); 10.12 pm, 8.5ft (27.7ft).

**WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY** MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

London	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy	10	SW	100	Cloudy</
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## HOME NEWS

## Public inquiry condemns harsh and insensitive treatment of children at assessment centre

From John Chartres

Salford Social Service Committee yesterday accepted the report of a public inquiry, published earlier in the day, saying that "outmoded" institutional practices and insensitive and harsh treatment of children at the Mossfield observation and assessment centre in the city should cease.

The inquiry was set up in May this year after allegations of harsh treatment of children "held" at the centre awaiting decisions on future accommodation or treatment.

One of the allegations was that a boy had been picked up by his head and ears by the warden, who, with the deputy warden (his wife), had been sent on leave since the inquiry began. The social service committee decided yesterday that the warden should return to his post.

The inquiry report says it was understood that instructions had already been given to end the outmoded practices and harsh treatment, including corporal punishment, compulsory cold baths and forcing of children to eat unwanted food.

It found proved allegations that a boy was picked up by his head and ears by the warden "in totally unacceptable circumstances", that on a few occasions boys were punched or kicked ("this was not a regular feature of the regime but is totally unacceptable"), and that sleeping and snoring of boys was a constant but frequent feature of the regime.

It rejected an allegation that children were knowingly forced to eat food tainted with their own vomit, although it agreed that on a few occasions children were sick as a result of being forced to eat food to which they were unaccustomed, and that on at least two occasions, probably more, they were still made to finish off the food on their

plates. That was inexcusable, the report said.

It says of the warden, Mr John Rodley, aged 50, and his wife, Dorothy, that they did adopt a caring approach to the children. "We heard many tributes to Mrs Rodley's successful attempts to be a mother figure and to her husband's similar attempts, not always quite so successful, to be a father figure, if perhaps a strict one," the report adds.

Of the "ear-lifting" incident, it says that Mr Rodley thought he could ridicule a boy aged 13 out of supposed homosexual tendencies. The boy was something of a show-off and did passably good imitations of Frank Spencer, the television character.

Mr Rodley heard of his dancing in front of children and houseparents. When the boy hesitated Mr Rodley picked him up by his ears (or by his head and ears) in such a way as to make him cry out in pain and later lie on his bed crying hysterically.

At its meeting yesterday the social services committee agreed that Mr Rodley should return to the centre as warden under supervision in January, with a rider that the committee would be kept informed about his further training. Mrs Rodley is to take up a lower-paid post as matron of another assessment centre. She will be in charge of domestic staff and not directly responsible for child-care.

The committee also decided that punishment books must be regularly kept and open to inspection, and that worried houseparents should be consulted jointly by the senior posts in residential homes.

It was confirmed yesterday that a further incident had occurred at the home in October in which a boy was hurt. Two members of the staff were disciplined, one has since re-

signed and another is appealing against disciplinary action.

The inquiry committee also suggested that Salford should set up a working party to consider the city's press and public relations arrangements. The original allegations became public after information had been supplied to *The Guardian* by a former employee of Salford City Council, and the newspaper published an article after unsuccessfully trying to obtain balancing information about any action being taken. (In fact an internal inquiry had been held after complaints by members of the staff.)

The report says the newspaper was totally justified in publishing the article and the fact that it was incomplete and misleading was not a defence.

The public inquiry was arranged within a few hours of the appearance of the newspaper article, although its first sitting had to be delayed until the police and the Director of Public Prosecutions had decided that no criminal proceedings were likely.

If full information had been given, as it should have been, it would have revealed that the social service department had done nothing of which it had cause to be concerned about its further training. Mrs Rodley is to take up a lower-paid post as matron of another assessment centre. She will be in charge of domestic staff and not directly responsible for child-care.

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## Christmas without breath tests in Ireland

From Christopher Walker

Dublin. The Irish Republic, a country internationally renowned both for its erratic driving and for its enthusiastic drinking habits, faces the worrying prospect of a first Christmas without a breath test law since 1968.

After years of sustained legal assault against the provisions of the Irish Road Traffic Act, the Director of Public Prosecutions ruled last month that all proceedings in drink-and-drive cases where this only evidence is blood alcohol level were to be dropped indefinitely.

The law had frequently been suspended for short periods, and a complex constitutional argument over the validity of blood tests led to a Supreme Court case which the state lost.

Even when the breath test law was in operation it permitted Irish drivers much more alcohol than their British counterparts. The limit was drawn at 225 milligrams in 100 millilitres of blood (compared with 80 mg in Britain), officially described as the equivalent for 11st man of drinking four pints of whiskey in two hours.

But it is generally accepted that the judiciary's dislike for the mandatory 12 months' suspension from driving contained in the law led to its final scrapping.

Initially the Government had hoped to introduce new legislation, based more closely on the British model, by Christmas. But the revised law has still not been drafted, and instead Mr Barrett, Minister for the Environment, is making a series of peak-hour television appeals about the dangers of drinking and driving.

A recent survey indicated that almost half the Irish drivers killed in road accidents after dark had drunk more than the legal limit.

Ministerial criticism: Mr Alexander Morrison, Chief Constable of Grampian Region, yesterday accused Mr Rodgers Secretary of State for Transport, of ignoring the dangers of drinking and driving.

Mr Morrison was commenting on the way the minister launched a film campaign on Tuesday to dissuade people from drinking and driving. Mr Rodgers drank a whisky and took a breath test which showed his blood-alcohol level to be 37mg.

It was concerned to emphasize that even with such a small amount of drink his driving would be impaired. But the chief constable said: "It introduced an atmosphere of permissibility in the law and I think that is basically wrong."

The report advocates that the use and manufacture of bayonet-cap adaptors (plugs that fit into lampholders) should be stopped.

A Commission on Electrical Safety in the Home, 1976, Consumer Safety Unit, Room 201, Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0ET, free.

electric blanket fires and five by television-set fires, the report notes, "have a background of thousands of non-fatal fires".

Results of a survey suggest that shocks from plugs are more prevalent than has been believed or than the number of deaths indicate.

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Schoolchildren at grace before a seventeenth-century meal of broth and oatcakes in Clarke Hall, a farmhouse at Stanley, West Yorkshire, built in 1677 and now used by the local authority as a museum. While the children are there they play Stuart-period games.

## Organizers of permanent opera company for the North take a musical gamble

By Our Music Reporter

As work begins on the creation of a new opera company for the North of England, the English National Opera North, at Leeds, it has become clear that it may be one of the biggest gambles in recent musical history.

For the first time since the Covent Garden company was set up after the last war a permanent opera company is being established in one swoop: orchestra, chorus, singers and staff are all being engaged ready for the first performances next November.

The finances for the first season have been underwritten by the Arts Council, but in the second year the onus will be on local authorities in Yorkshire to find the necessary money for the company to survive.

While the Arts Council will provide a proportion of the cost for the second and later years, the local councils will have to find perhaps £250,000 or £300,000 a year to keep the company in operation.

On the basis that the proof of the pudding is in the eating, Yorkshire will be able to sample the wares before deciding whether to foot the bill.

Applications for the post of

As Mr David Lloyd-Jones, the company's artistic director put it: "The Yorkshire and northern organizations are going to see the performances presented by the company for at least a year; then they are going to be asked to put their hands in their pockets and support it to the hilt."

English National Opera North will cost about £450,000 in its first short season, and thereafter at least £1m a year. Box office takings should meet a third of the cost and the Arts Council will provide four-fifths of the remainder.

Mr Jack Phillips, the Arts Council's director of touring, said most of the rest would have to be found by the local authorities, particularly West Yorkshire County Council and Leeds City Council, although South and North Yorkshire and Humberside county councils will be pressed to contribute.

Business and private donations will be sought. Mr Lloyd-Jones is nevertheless confident that the new venture will be an artistic success and will attract support, and he is swiftly building up the team to run the new company.

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## MP's call on police chief discipline

Mr Rees, the Home Secretary, was urged yesterday to establish new machinery to supervise the discipline of chief constables and other senior police officers.

The demand comes in a letter from Mr John Ryman, Labour MP for Ely, after the dismissal of Mr Stanley Farr as Chief Constable of Lancashire, found by the Lancashire Police Committee to have misused his position.

Mr Ryman said: "The events leading to his dismissal on the grounds of showing favouritism, abuse of office, and improper use of police transport disclosed a most disturbing state of affairs. In recent years the public have seen too many scandals involving very senior police officers."

Public confidence in the police was being progressively undermined, he said. "Junior police officers walk on a disciplinary tightrope every day of their working lives."

"In the public interest it is absolutely essential for the Home Secretary to establish new machinery to deal with chief constables who fail to conform to the high standard of behaviour the public expects of them."

## New council for national parks formed

By a Correspondent

A new organization has been formed to protect national parks in England and Wales. The Council for National Parks, its prime purpose is to make sure that the twin aims of national parks, the preservation and enhancement of natural beauty and the enjoyment of the parks by the public, are successfully pursued.

Membership in the council comes from more than 20 amenity and outdoor recreation organizations throughout England and Wales, including the Council for the Protection of Rural England, the National Trust, the Ramblers' Association, the Youth Hostels Association and the British Mountaineering Council.

One of the main issues with which the council will be concerned is collecting evidence for the Advisory Council for Agriculture and Horticulture, which has been asked by the Minister of Agriculture to advise on ways to reconcile the conflict between the national interest and countryside, recreation and conservation and the need for economic agricultural production. The council will be urging the ministry to "give priority to conservation goals when making grants in particularly sensitive areas of national parks."

The council will also collect evidence for the Commission on Environmental Subcommittees urging the use of the National Land Fund for the purchase of land within national parks by the national park authorities as a way of ensuring the fund's use for conservation or recreation purposes.

One of the council's main concerns will be the review of administrative arrangements for the national parks, which has been promised by the Government for 1981. The council believes that the national park committees and boards have less independence than is required for them to carry out their duties successfully, and there are recent indications that county councils want to curb even more the actions of the park committees.

Miss Linda Herbst, the council's secretary, said yesterday: "With national parks supported 75 per cent by national funds, they must not be allowed to be run by county councils."

murder attempt charge against matron

Helen Messer, aged 38, the matron of a nursing home, who has been accused of killing a woman patient of 81, was also charged yesterday with her attempted murder. The new charge was made after Mrs Messer had appeared before magistrates at Bolton, Greater Manchester, on a coroner's warrant accused of the manslaughter of Mrs Mary Newton at the Ladymead Private Home, in July last.

Mrs Messer, of Westwood Road, Bolton, was further charged with the attempted murder of Mrs Newton and with three drug offences. She will face the four new charges when she appears before the court again on January 19. She was allowed bail in £200.

## Sharp rise in home deaths from electrical accidents

By Our Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Last year 59 people died by electric shock in home accidents, a sharp increase on the 46 who died in 1975 and 43 in 1974.

Mr Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, commenting on the figures in a report published yesterday, said: "These are disturbing statistics which clearly illustrate the dangers involved in tampering with electrical equipment without sufficient knowledge."

The report says no particular factor can be blamed for the increase in the number of deaths, but says only a very small proportion of electrical accidents result in death. Also last year, 45 people died in fires involving electrical equipment. The 17 caused by electric blanket fires and five by television-set fires, the report notes, "have a background of thousands of non-fatal fires".

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## Broadmoor patients 'have no remedy under UK law'

By John Roper

Health Services Correspondent. The European Commission on Human Rights has decided that two patients detained in Broadmoor, whose names were taken up by the Mind campaign of the National Association for Mental Health, have no effective remedy under United Kingdom law.

Substantial questions about treatment on punishment arose, which might be a violation of article three of the convention that prohibits "inhuman or degrading treatment". The Mind campaign will continue to press for a domestic inquiry and for a change in legislation to prevent similar cases in future.

Announcing the commission's decision today Mind also disclosed details of the two cases. Mr A, it says, is detained not because of a fraud for which he was convicted in 1974, but "in his own best interests and because he needed treatment".

The Mind campaign argues that Mr A had virtually nothing to do all day, was subjected to overcrowding and lack of privacy and was in fear of violence.

Mr B, who was suspected of starting a fire in Broadmoor, was, it is alleged, put in isolation for five weeks, with no cheer on which to sit, little room to walk and little natural light.

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"The dangers of going to bed, the article concludes, 'should be well known'. Among them are spastic depression, thrombosis, hypostatic pneumonia, bed sores, retention of urine and constipation. It also causes weakness, wasting of the muscles, and decalcification of the bones, with a tendency to form kidney stones."

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## Court ruling on knife man upsets MPs

A court decision to acquit a man of having an offensive weapon when he carried a knife was "full recognition of the breakdown of law and order", Mr Rhodes Boyson, Conservative MP for Brent, North, said yesterday.

It was also a further threat to breakdown if everybody was expected from now on to carry a weapon for his self-protection if he moved into certain areas in London, he added.

The case concerned a factory worker who had been charged with carrying a knife for protection in an area plagued by muggers.

Mr Boyson said "some of us have been warning for years that law and order was rapidly breaking down in Britain". He urged Mr Rees, the Home Secretary, to increase police pay and recruitment immediately. He also demanded heavier sentences for muggers.

If such action was not taken, the man and woman in the street would consider the court decision to be a licence to carry weapons for protection in Britain's cities, he said.

Mr Edward Garrett, Labour MP for Wallasey, said he was appalled at the magistrate's decision and suggested that the Home Secretary might intervene.

Mr Kenneth Warren, Tory MP for Hastings, said: "We are frightened about the development of disorder in the streets but to encourage people to take up arms will make life even more dangerous."

"The Police Federation said: 'The police may appeal if they feel the decision is perverse'. The Law Society said the magistrates had apparently decided that the knife was not an offensive weapon because the man used it in his work. 'It is still an offence to carry an offensive weapon, even if you live in a dangerous area.'"

had made diagonal comparisons in the tables. *The Times Educational Supplement*, Mr Stuart MacLure, told Mr Jeffery that he had decided not to print the letter as he did not think it would be generally intelligible to readers.

The Press Council's adjudication was. As the complaint had not been personally attacked or otherwise criticized he had no claim to a right of reply. The editor exercised his discretion in deciding not to publish the complainant's article or letter because he considered the items would not be generally intelligible to readers. The complaint against *The Times Educational Supplement* is rejected.

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## HOME NEWS

### Gould report accused of academic 'witch-hunt'

By Maggie Richards of The Times Higher Education Supplement

An attack on Professor Julius Gould and his allegations of Marxist and radical involvement in higher education has been launched by the Council for Academic Freedom and Democracy.

A pamphlet from the group questions the basis on which Professor Gould, of Nottingham University, "set himself up as the defender of scholarship against the radicals".

It argues that his report, *The attack on higher education—Marxist and radical penetration*, which was published in September, attempted to create an atmosphere of "McCarthyist intolerance and witch-hunting" within the education system.

The pamphlet condemns the Gould report for propounding "a gross conspiracy theory, invariable to evidence and poorly argued for. Theories and ideas are alluded to, but not discussed at a serious intellectual level", it says.

The group was one of those referred to in the Gould report as a "front organization". But that has been denounced by Mr Anthony Arblaster, lecturer in politics at Sheffield University and chairman of the council.

"There is only one organization behind the CAFD 'front', and that is the National Council for Civil Liberties, under whose auspices the council was set up, and which it remains happily affiliated", he said.

Contributions to the pamphlet include an article by Mr Arblaster and a piece on Professor Gould and the Open University by three members of its staff.

Mr Arblaster questions the claim of the Gould report that it upholds the values of intellectual diversity and pluralism. He also criticizes the report's blacklisting of academics who participated in conferences organized by left-wing groups.

Another article written by Mr Steven Lukes, of Kent University, accuses the Gould report of being "a piece of academic scholarship, but in the rhetorical mode, using the language and paraphernalia of scholarship for political purposes".

Mr Lukes expresses the view that the director of education, at the time of the report, was a director of educational institutions, heads of departments and university moderators, and is concerned that the report is encouraging them to "learn on anyone who could be described as a radical".

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### Man died after transfusion of wrong blood

From Our Correspondent, Leamington Spa

A verdict of death by misadventure was returned yesterday on a patient who died in Stratford-on-Avon Hospital because he was given the wrong blood.

Frederick Share, aged 60, of Ebbw Vale, Warwickshire, had been admitted for an operation to remove part of his stomach because of a duodenal ulcer. After the operation on November 23, he was found to be bleeding from the wound and a nurse was instructed to get blood for a transfusion.

Staff Nurse Wendy Moore said she put Mr Share's file in an office. When more blood was required she took a pink form from where she had left the file. "I believed the pink form was Mr Share's, and when the blood had been collected from the laboratory it called for details on the form", she said.

Dr David Chinn, a surgeon, said he was called to Mr Share and instructed that the transfusion rate should be increased. "Then I noted that on the bed was a transfusion form for a Mr Jones. I asked if Mr Share had the right blood, and when it was checked it was found to be wrong. The blood given to Mr Share was for Mr Jones."

Pupil Nurse Janice Arnold, who helped to check the blood against the pink form, told the inquest that it did not strike her that the patient for whom the blood was intended was not Mr Jones.

Dr Derek Barrowcliff, a consultant pathologist, said: "In my view Mr Share died as the result of the transfusion of about a pint of incompatible blood."

### Colonel 'proud of part in getting Iranian contract' but denies bribery

By David Barrowcliff

Lieutenant-Colonel David Randel told the Central Criminal Court yesterday that he had been proud of the part he played in securing an important contract for the Iranian Armed Forces.

Repeating earlier denials that he had ever received money from the Royal British Communications Corporation by way of commission or expenses, he said: "I did my duty over 15 months with vigour and effectiveness and I was very proud that my efforts helped to make an efficient and very large contract."

Colonel Randel, aged 40, of The Royal Signals, Aldershot, is one of three men who deny corruption charges in the £4m contract for the supply by Royal British Communications Corporation of radio equipment for Chieftain tanks sold to Iran.

The other two defendants are Geoffrey Wellburn, aged 41, former managing director of Royal BBC, of Woodside Road, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, and Frank Nurdin, aged 61, the

## Man in the news: Mr Jack Ashley, MP

### Fighter for cause of the disabled

By a Staff Reporter

Mr Jack Ashley, Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent, South, former labourer and crane driver, now champion of the disabled and underprivileged, is to receive an honorary degree from the Open University.

Mr Ashley, who is 55, left school at the age of 14 and 10 years later won a scholarship to Rusk College, Oxford. Two years later he won another scholarship to Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, and became president of the Cambridge Union.

His record of success is remarkable. His secret is what his wife, Pauline, calls his "bloody-mindedness": once he has espoused a cause, he will never give it up. As a former media man and now an MP he knows how to use both the press and Parliament to his advantage.

"I won't take no for an answer," he explained recently. "The thing is never to accept the brush-off from any minister, Tory or Labour, if you are convinced you are right. You've got all these weapons—questions, early day motions, deputations to the minister, letters, adjournment debates, full debates; and if the issue is very important you give them a canoodle."

Jack Ashley stands on the centre-right of the Labour Party and is a member of the Manifesto Group. Last year he called for a national campaign to combat vandalism. Last summer he tried unsuccessfully to tighten the law on sexual offences and to give the prosecution in rape cases a right of appeal.



Mr Ashley: Overcame his own deafness.

His concern to maintain high standards in public life led him recently to call for a royal commission on the functioning of Parliament and the role of MPs. Parliament is rightly regarded as the watchdog of our national institutions, he said, but it was time for an independent and searching scrutiny of the watchdog itself.

During the 1950s and early 1960s he worked for the BBC, first as a radio producer and then as a television producer on such programmes as *Pomona and Galloway*. In 1966 he won his seat in Stoke-on-Trent with a majority of 12,611, but two years later resigned after totally losing his hearing be-

cause of a post-operation virus infection.

He was plunged into the depths of despair. "One lives in a glass cage," he said at the time. "You see lips move, but there is no sound; you see babies cry, but hear no crying. My life is in pieces. I was an MP with a safe seat and false prospects. Now I have no future."

A couple of weeks later he was back in the House, persuaded by friends and political colleagues that as a disabled person in Parliament he was in a special position to advance the cause of the disabled.

He took a crash-course in lip reading. Eighteen months and many setbacks later he had become skilled enough to be able to follow parliamentary debates and to chair a parliamentary group on disabilities.

From then he has never looked back, leading indefatigable campaigns on behalf of battered babies, rape victims, battered wives, brain-damaged children, victims of whooping cough, vaccine, the physically disabled, impecunious litigants, and his longest and most successful campaign of all, that for compensation for the thousands of disabled children.

Mr Ashley is one of 11 people who will receive honorary MA degrees from the Open University in the summer. Honorary degrees will be awarded to Professor R. V. Jones, Sir Charles Curran, recently retired Director-General of the BBC, Sir Charles Groves, the conductor, Dr Otto Peters, Dr Kenneth Robinson, Dr Timothy Saunders, Professor Harold Wilshire, Professor Michael Wise, and the late Dr Ernst Schumacher.

### Decision on Tyndale is delayed

By Mark Jackson

Staff of the former William Tyndale Junior School in Islington, near London, are waiting until after Christmas for the result of their latest appeal against dismissal. After an eight-day hearing an industrial tribunal has reserved its judgment.

Mr Ashley Bramall, leader of the Inner London Education Authority, and Dr Eric Briault, its retired chief education officer, are among those who gave evidence for the authority. But Mr Harvey Hills, the former chairman of the schools subcommittee, who resigned after the report of a public inquiry into the school last year, refused to do so.

Today's *Times Educational Supplement* reports that Mr Hills, who is Labour whip in the Greater London Council, intimated to the teachers his readiness to give evidence on their behalf, he did not in the end do so, he said, because it did not seem that his evidence would help them.

### Teachers call for inquiry into tensions in schools

From Ronald Paux, Edinburgh

The Educational Institute of Scotland, the largest teachers' organization in Scotland, called yesterday for action by the authorities to discover how many resignations, breakdowns, transfers and early retirements among teachers were caused by the increasing stresses and strains of their job.

Mr John Pollock, general secretary of the institute, told a press conference in Edinburgh that positive action was needed to reduce stress and strain in the profession and to prevent disruption by pupils in Scottish schools. That had reached serious proportions, he said, but had been "hushed up".

In Strathclyde about 400 teachers had left their jobs in two months recently. Some departures were accounted for by retirement or pregnancy, but a proportion must have been because of stress, he said.

"Teachers who get involved tend to keep quiet about it in case their professional competence is questioned. Head teachers keep quiet about it because they do not want the school to get a bad name. Authorities do not want to know; they prefer the schools to cope with their own problems."

Mr Pollock admitted that only a small minority of pupils indulged in disruptive behaviour. A sensible policy by local authorities and government would be to transform the atmosphere in many "problem" schools.

Mr Pollock quoted from a letter received recently at the institute's headquarters from a teacher who had retired after eight years' teaching. The complaint of understaffing, resulting in large classes and excessive quantities of correction, so that pressures became almost intolerable.

The sorry of the threat and a £1,400 trade of damage left by the crane was told at the court when Mr Gardner, aged 19, was sent to prison for 18 months.

The court was told that, after driving straight through the gates of the yard where the crane was kept, at Baptist Mills, Bristol, he drove into a road bridge, wrecked a street lamp and damaged houses.

Mr Gardner, who admitted taking the crane, and seven charges of causing damage, was told by Judge Dyer: "I have come to the conclusion that this was one night of madness."

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Dr Derek Barrowcliff, a consultant pathologist, said: "In my view Mr Share died as the result of the transfusion of about a pint of incompatible blood."

### Tories demand that Front candidates get a hearing

By Craig Seton

The Conservative group in the south-east London borough of Lewisham has decided that during the local government election campaign next May it will refuse to address public meetings if National Front candidates are not also invited to speak.

The decision is a response to the attitude of the controlling Labour group, which so far has refused to appear on the same platform as the National Front, although the decision will be left to individual candidates during the campaign. Liberal candidates also will make their own decisions.

Mr Godfrey Agar, leader of the Conservative group, which holds only 11 of the 70 borough council seats, said yesterday:

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Mr Gardner, who admitted taking the crane, and seven charges of causing damage, was told by Judge Dyer: "I have come to the conclusion that this was one night of madness."

### Labourer took crane 'on night of madness'

From Our Own Correspondent, Bristol

Ronald Gardner, a labourer, told the police officer who confronted him: "If anyone steps forward I will get them." It was alleged at Bristol Crown Court yesterday.

The court heard that Mr Gardner was backed up not with a gun, a knife or a club; he was swinging the job of a giant crane he had stolen on "one night of madness."

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### £40 loans offered to strikers

By David Barrowcliff

About 4,700 strikers at Raleigh Industries, Nottingham, have been offered £40 company loans to tide them over Christmas after voting yesterday to return to work.

Raleigh lost £3m in production during the five-week strike. The loans will be repaid in the new year.

### Eton scholarship award extended

By David Barrowcliff

Primary school boys living in Hampshire and Sussex will be eligible for the first time for the Eton junior scholarship next year, the college has announced.

Six scholarships are awarded annually on the basis of parental income after a competitive examination.

### Christmas truce declared for Tagg's islanders

By David Barrowcliff

The household people of Tagg's Island, whose road bridge to the Wickhampton shore of the Thames has been declared unsafe by the local council, will have to leave their cars on the mainland after today.

Richmond upon Thames Council is to put a temporary barrier across the bridge, but the islanders will be able to walk across and emergency service vehicles will be able to get through.

In the High Court yesterday, by consent, Mr Justice Fox, the vacation judge, made no order on the application of John Tagg, a boardowner, to continue a temporary injunction made on Tuesday to stop the council closing the bridge completely.

Both sides agreed to an early trial, probably in February.

### Busmen's protest

By David Barrowcliff

Busmen at Riverside Garage, Hammersmith, are stopping work today in protest against the strabbling of two of their workmates last week. London Transport said yesterday.

### University pay

By David Barrowcliff

The pay debate dominated the Association of University Teachers' conference in Edinburgh. Full details appear in *The Times Higher Education Supplement* today.

## WEST EUROPE

### Short list of four for Europe's astronaut

From Ian Murray, Paris, Dec 22

The first West European to voyage in space will be an Italian, a German, a Dutchman or a Swiss. The European Space Agency here today announced its short list of four to train for the seven-day joint American-European Spacelab mission in 1980. They were chosen from the 55 hopefuls selected in September by 11 European countries. Only one of them will actually make the journey.

The Italian is a 31-year-old bachelor, Signor Franco Malerba, a physician and electronics engineer at the Italian National Research Council. A biophysics specialist, he has worked at the Nasa centre in La Spezia and studied neurophysiology in the United States.

Herr Ulf Merbold, a 36-year-old research physicist, is the German candidate. An expert on a molecular structure, which is a main task of the spacelab mission, he is married and has a son aged three.

The Swiss candidate, Mr Claude Nicollier, is a former Swissair pilot and works in the space agency's laboratory in Holland, specializing in astronomy and superconductivity. He is married, with a three-year-old son.

Nuclear problems are the specialty of the Dutch candidate, Mr Wubbo Ockels, who has worked at the Nasa centre in the breakdown of nuclear systems immediately after their formation. He is 31, married, with a four-year-old son.

These four have been chosen from a first shortlist of 12, which included French, Irish,



Mrs Ann Whitaker, who could be the first American woman to fly in space

British, Belgian and Danish names.

The mission will attempt to carry out 70 experiments covering research into the stratosphere and upper atmosphere, biology, medicine, astronomy, solar physics, thermodynamics and observation of the earth.

Washington, Dec 22—A 35-year-old mother was among six American finalists named today for the Spacelab mission.

Mrs Ann Whitaker, a physicist and mother of a young daughter, was one of the finalists announced by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa).

Only one of the Americans will be selected for the scientific assignment on the mission. The rest of the Skylab crew will be five American astronauts.

Mrs Whitaker, who comes from Huntsville, Alabama, works at the Marshall space flight centre in her home town.

The other Americans named are Dr Craig Fischer, aged 40, a doctor from Indian Wells, California; Dr Michael Lampert, aged 36, a space physicist from Berkeley, California; Mr Byron Lichtenberg, aged 39, of Natick, Massachusetts, a doctor; Dr Robert Menzies, aged 34, of Pasadena, California, a space physicist; and Dr Richard Terrell, aged 26, also of Pasadena, a planetary scientist.—Reuters.

### Bank clerks win £5m in Spanish lottery

From Harry Debelius, Madrid, Dec 22

If you get a bank draft from Madrid and it smells a bit like a newspaper, you are in luck. The winning number of Spain's colossal Christmas lottery came up today and it is held by 33 employees of the foreign section of the Bank of Bilbao.

When he came to the lottery, Mr Pollock admitted that only a small minority of pupils indulged in disruptive behaviour. A sensible policy by local authorities and government would be to transform the atmosphere in many "problem" schools.

Mr Pollock quoted from a letter received recently at the institute's headquarters from a teacher who had retired after eight years' teaching. The complaint of understaffing, resulting in large classes and excessive quantities of correction, so that pressures became almost intolerable.

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### Britain's milk marketing system wins Commission's approval

From Michael Horneby, Brussels, Dec 22

The Milk Marketing Board, which ensures daily deliveries of fresh milk to 90 per cent of Britain's families, was today given the go-ahead by the European Commission to enable the MMB to continue needed to be examined closely, though on the face of it they seem fairly minor.

The chief gain for Mr Silkin is that the Commission agrees with him that the MMB's exclusive powers of purchase and marketing, as well as its price-fixing system, should continue. Among other things, this enables the MMB to ensure throughout the year that all demands for liquid milk consumption are met before milk is made available to processors for turning into butter, cheese and other products.

Given a general picture in the EEC of stagnant or declining consumption of milk products, coupled with sharply rising production, the EEC's role in maintaining a high level of milk consumption on the final say over commission proposals. British sources in Brussels also said that the Commission's proposal that the board should keep its main functions.

About 65 per cent of British milk production is drunk, and annual per capita consumption of milk in Britain is about 256 pints, compared with a Community average of no more than 174 pints apart from Ireland, where the average is 250 pints.

Under the Commission's proposal, the MMB would have to shed some of its present powers. There would have to be some modification, for example, of its exclusive right of purchase as regard milk intended for export, and in certain cases for processing. Its control over the prior licensing of new dairy production and processing plant would also have to be dropped.

### French planes 'called in by Mauritania'

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris, Dec 22

French aircraft have apparently been used, at the request of the Mauritanian Government, against the Polisario guerrillas in the Western Sahara in an attempt to stop anti-aircraft missiles and guns.

According to informed sources in Paris, this was the reason why Jaguar aircraft were used against Polisario columns in the desert. The jets were again on December 18.

The first attack is said to have taken place after a raid on the railway line between Zouerate and Nouadhibou. Four Polisario bases were found and destroyed, the raiding columns' supply dump of petrol and weapons, forcing it to form up in the open desert to try to repel the attacks the following day with their Sam missiles and cannon. This made them a relatively easy target for both French and Moroccan aircraft.

The second attack is reported to have been carried out largely by Moroccan aircraft, which machine-gunned the Polisario column while giving cover to the French jets.

There is still no official French statement about the Air Force's involvement beyond the answer given yesterday in the National Assembly by Mr de Guiringaud, the Foreign Minister, that very limited support was being given to Mauritania.

The Foreign Minister appears

### Pilots strike in Portugal to press for double pay

From Our Own Correspondent, Lisbon, Dec 22

The Portuguese Government has weighed in behind the management of the national airline TAP, when its 340 pilots began an indefinite strike today for a 100 per cent pay increase.

The Government said the airline could not give more than the 40 per cent it had originally offered and a Transport Ministry statement described the pilots' claim as intolerable.

The Communist Party also condemned the stoppage, which threatens to leave thousands of tourists and Portuguese emigrant workers stranded over Christmas. The Government said the strike would deal a heavy blow to tourism.

The dispute—the second TAP strike in three years—comes at a time of political crisis, caused by the resignation of the Socialist Government two weeks ago after the Socialists lost a parliamentary election vote on economic policy.

The main parties are due to hand in their proposals for a new government to President Eanes by tomorrow. But the right-wing weekly *Jornal de Notícias* said today there was some political deadlock which would have to be dissolved by Parliament and call new elections.—Reuters.

### Father of the French Assembly retires

From Ian Murray, Paris, Dec 22

He was born in the village of Drap, in the Alpes Maritimes, became a schoolteacher in the near by village of Castellier in 1909, won the Croix de Guerre in the First World War, and wrote a book called *Le Maroc, de 1912 à 1933*. He was 47 when he won his seat in the Assembly.

The Mediterranean and its environment have been one of his most passionate interests and he succeeded in persuading the Assembly in the course of its last session to approve a Government inquiry into the pollution of the sea.

Far from retiring from public life he has started a vigorous election campaign for his successor, well advanced on another book, and intends to ensure that poorer people have the right to holidays.

He has one other crusade and he made that the subject of his last speech to the Assembly last night. He wants France to force Bolivia to extradite Herr Klaus Barbie, the German war criminal, whom he holds responsible for the death of his son, Max, through torture in a prisoner-of-war camp.

As he mounted the tribune to make his last speech his Communist colleagues rose and applauded him all the way. As he drew the attention of the Government "in the vanity of the steps taken" to secure the extradition of Herr Barbie the whole house listened in respectful silence. Mr de Guiringaud was not the first Foreign Minister to assure him that the Government was doing everything in its power to do what he asked.

M. Baré is a drawing by Picasso in his home in Nice, a home he calls "the most beautiful museum in the world". It is a drawing of his son as a young boy and every day his wife, Elo, changes the little bouquet of flowers in the vase in front of it. The father of the House may have retired, but the father of Max Baré intends to continue his crusade.

### Bomb injures two at Tenerife hotel

From Our Own Correspondent, Sanja Cruz de Tenerife, Dec 22

A bomb injured two people last night in Tenerife's leading hotel, a Canary Islands separatist movement claimed responsibility.

A bomb partly destroyed the headquarters of the Centre Democratic Party in the Algarve holiday resort of Portimao early today. Nobody was hurt.

Turin: Left-wing extremists set off a bomb outside a police barracks here early today after machine-gun fire. Widespread damage was caused but no one was hurt.—Reuters.

### Boxer in coma again

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris, Dec 22

Jörg Eipel, the West German welterweight boxer, knocked out by Alain Merklen in the last round of their title fight on Saturday, has sunk back into a coma.



## OVERSEAS

## Frustration of job can cool elation of New York's mayor as he faces task of making city solvent

From Michael Legman  
New York, Dec. 22

Winning elections is surely one of the most satisfactory experiences in public life, but there are some elections where the elation of victory must be tempered almost instantly by the knowledge that the job for which the victor has been elected is a daunting task.

Mr. Edward Koch was elected by a comfortable margin last month, and at the turn of the year he formally assumes his responsibilities. Yet already, in trying to find men to fill the key positions of his administration, he has met with some of the frustrations inherent in the job.

The man who was expected to be the deputy mayor withdrew when he discovered that there would be six deputy mayors with equal status. The man whom Mr. Koch wanted as over-seer of the city's finances rejected the job in favour of one with the state government, where his role would be to keep a watchful eye on how the city spends its money.

Still, with a doggedness which seems to be one of his chief qualities, Mr. Koch completed the blue-ribbon and last week achieved an encouraging success when he persuaded the city council to drop their plan to give themselves 50 per cent pay increases. He came out of that confrontation smiling sweetly and talking of the triumph of a mayor and statesmanship.

One lesson from that episode was of how little real power the Mayor of New York has. The retiring mayor, Mr. Abraham Beame, could have vetoed the pay increases, but then the council could, if so inclined, have overridden the veto, and Mr. Koch would have arrived in office with an extra \$500,000 (£250,000) already on his annual wage bill.

Keeping costs down—and that means keeping wages down—is going to be one of his chief tasks as he juggles with the figures to try to make the city solvent.

For instance, he will soon have to negotiate new contracts with groups such as the transport workers. During the election campaign he spoke of the necessity of being tough with the unions, but the experience of a former mayor, Mr. John Lindsay, serves as a warning that a serious strike early in an administration can colour a mayor's entire four years of office.

Mr. Koch is a balding bachelor with a high-pitched voice and his manner would best be described as glib. He won his campaign with a promise of competence, and this is the image he has tried to foster during the pre-mayorship period.

He boasts that he does not own a car and travels by underground train, and during the campaign he undertook to fight for badly needed improvements in underground equipment and stations. The appealing series of parts of the system, together

with the constantly worsening potholes in the roads, is demoralizing for New Yorkers. It all contributes to driving the middle classes—and some revenue-producing corporations—out of the city.

During his campaign, Mr. Koch was adamantly opposed to the Westway project, a big new road, which Mr. Beame's administration wanted to build to replace the old West Side highway by the Hudson river. Mr. Koch said that the money for this—most of it derived from the federal Government—ought to be devoted to the underground and buses.

There have been signs lately, however, that the mayor-elect is wavering on this issue under strong pressure from Westway's supporters, and many will view the outcome as a vital test of Mr. Koch's intentions. Big business wants Westway, but the people, who use public transport want to see that improved.

For the most part, the new mayor's choices will not be between ways of spending money but of saving it. His priority will be to gain enough assistance from the state and federal governments to save off a budget crisis like that of 1975, and then gradually to restore the city's fiscal health to a level at which it can once again borrow money in the open market.

It is a modest and uninspiring goal but Mr. Koch, who is not particularly famous himself, could be the man to attain it.



A belly dancer wins applause from General Sillayev (centre), UN delegate in Cairo.

## Cairo peace negotiators wait for outcome of Sadat-Begin summit

Cairo, Dec. 22.—Preparatory talks on a Middle East peace conference today with differences still unsettled, as wait for the meeting between President Sadat and Mr. Begin on Sunday, 1978, after the last Arab-Israeli war.

The Geneva conference met inconclusively in December, 1973, after the last Arab-Israeli war. Egyptian sources, asked whether Israel wanted to delete any reference to Geneva as the venue for reaching a comprehensive peace settlement, said there was nothing in the United Nations resolutions specifying the Swiss city by name.

The sources emphasized that this did not mean the Soviet Union, which opposes the Cairo talks, should not have a role to play. "Nobody can exclude the Soviet Union's important role, but Moscow itself," they said.

The only parties attending the Cairo talks are Egypt, Israel, the United States and the United Nations. The Soviet Union, Syria and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation all rejected President Sadat's invitation, while Jordan and Lebanon found diplomatic reasons for being absent.

Analysts believe the Sadat-Begin meeting could produce a number of minor agreements such as the creation of a hotline to avoid any "war by accident" and a withdrawal of troops in the Sinai peninsula from frontline positions during the peace negotiations.

They said progress would be slower on such fundamental issues as complete Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied in the 1967 war, particularly from the West Bank.

Some 150 Palestinians from the West Bank crossed into Egypt today to support President Sadat's peace move.

Their visit is a blow to the Palestine Liberation Organisation, which has claimed to represent all Palestinians in opposing Mr. Sadat's policy. Reuters and UPI.

Bairut, Dec. 22.—A building housing three Egyptian companies was damaged by a bomb explosion here today. The attack came after three unsuccessful attempts on the Egyptian Embassy in the past four days.

Yesterday the Egyptian chargé d'affaires in Lebanon told President Sarkis that he feared for the security of Egyptian offices and personnel.

A radical Palestinian guerrilla organisation said today that an Israeli force last night kidnapped 10 inhabitants of the south Lebanese village of Aytrun, close to the border with Israel.

The newspaper *Al-Thawra* (The Revolution), published by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, printed what it said were the names of seven kidnapped men, adding that the names of the others were not available. The villagers involved were peasants and fishermen, it said. Agence France-Presse and Reuters.

## Gandhi supporters try to split Congress

From Richard Wigg  
Delhi, Dec. 22

Mrs. Gandhi's supporters seem hell-bent on splitting the Congress Party while India's former Prime Minister goes on maintaining—in public at least—that she is still for unity.

Her more headstrong supporters have now decided to summon what in effect would be a rival All-India Congress committee meeting for December 31 in spite of the poor attendance at a preliminary meeting here of pro-Gandhi party members.

The latest crisis was provoked by Mrs. Gandhi's decision, announced last weekend, to quit the party executive though continuing as an ordinary party member.

The disappointing attendance at her meeting and the numerous expressions of support which have since come to him from influential Congress members in various parts of India, have persuaded Mr. Brahmananda Reddy, this party president, to refuse the crisis by simply speaking directly to everyone. Yesterday Mr. Reddy even said he would do his best to keep Mrs. Gandhi on the party executive and not accept her resignation at all.

The main preoccupation of the Congress supporters of Mr. Reddy is the damage this any split must cause the party in the state legislative elections early next spring. Bank-and-file party workers in the south, where Congress remains a force, are said to be agitated at the prospect of in-fighting of the Delhi party bosses and their aides.

## BBC sells Shakespeare plays to US for £2m

From Our Own Correspondent  
New York, Dec. 22

The BBC has completed a £2m deal with the Public Broadcasting System here to sell its forthcoming productions of all 36 plays by Shakespeare over the next six years.

The deal is being sealed, however, by under the terms of the agreement, the BBC will supply the P.B.S. with all the rights to the plays, including the right to adapt them for television and film.

Mr. Sam Robert, executive co-ordinator for the Conference of Motion Picture and Television Producers, said today's New York Post as calling the plan "callous and insensitive". He said his organisation would launch a national campaign to stop it, including political pressure.

The Public Broadcasting System is sensitive to campaigns of this sort because it is partly financed by the Federal Government. It accepts no advertising, and the balance of its revenues derive from grants from corporations and donations from viewers. Its audience is only a small fraction of those who watch the three main commercial networks.

Mr. Robert said that although his organisation admired the British theatre, its allegiance must be to its members, many of whom were, or would be, of colour. One of the proposed campaign slogans, he said, would be that the initials CBS, for Corporation of Public Broadcasting, should be redefined as Corporation for "passage to Britain".

## President of Bangladesh welcomed to Pakistan

From Our Correspondent  
Islamabad, Dec. 22

Informal sources here scoffed at the idea of a confederation between Pakistan and Bangladesh, its former province which broke away to become an independent state.

Speculation about a confederation had been rife in the press before the arrival of General Zia-ul-Rahman, the Bangladesh President, today on his first state visit to Islamabad.

All due honours were extended to General Rahman by Pakistan Government leaders, including President Chaudhri

## Five dead, 11 injured in silo explosion

From Our Correspondent  
New Orleans, Dec. 22

An explosion in a grain silo at the Continental Grain Company, in a New Orleans suburb today left at least five people dead, 11 injured and about 20 missing, the authorities said.

Five bodies were recovered from the 15-storey high silo and the adjacent three-storey office building, where government inspectors worked. The missing were believed trapped in the offices. The silo apparently

## Voice recorder of hijack plane found in Johore

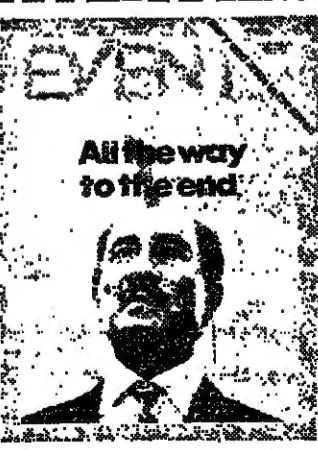
From Our Correspondent  
Kuala Lumpur, Dec. 22

The cockpit voice recorder from a hijacked Malaysia Boeing 737 airliner which crashed two weeks ago, killing all 100 people on board, has been found and could throw light on the cause of the disaster, it was announced today.

Tan Sri Manickavasagam, the Communications Minister, told a press conference that the device, which records conversation in the cockpit, was found in the wreckage of the plane, and communication with ground stations was cut out from 12ft of mud at the crash site in the state of Johore. He said it was being sent immediately to Britain for analysis.

Investigators last week recovered the flight data recorder, which shows speed, direction and altitude of the aircraft. The fuselage, wings and tail had been believed to be still buried. Reuters.

## SADAT'S MOST OUTSPOKEN INTERVIEW:



All the way to the end

- "Geneva is not the objective. If we achieve peace without Geneva it is not a blasphemy."
- The Soviets are angry because they want to be our mentors.
- I intend to go all the way with my initiative, even without super power blessing.
- Carter's role in Sadat's Israel visit

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## Hostages overpowered and shoot bank robber

From Our Correspondent  
Subic Bay, Philippines, Dec. 22

A Filipino gunman died today after being overpowered by enraged hostages he had held for two and a half days in a bank at the United States Subic Bay naval base.

Some of the men among the 14 hostages rushed their captor after he began abusing a woman hostage. He had been trying to force her to make sounds of distress during a telephone conversation with officials.

The gunman had earlier threatened to burn one of the women and knife one of the men as he became more desperate. Identified only by the initials ALQ, named on one arm, he was taken to the base

hospital where he died two hours later. He was reported to have had no political motive in taking his hostages.

The man, who had held the hostages at gunpoint since trying to hold up the bank on Tuesday, suffered a wound in his head and a fractured skull.

A psychiatrist had listened to all the phone conversations and had advised officials on how the situation should be handled. "It was apparent from the conversation that the lack of response to his requests to provide him with an escape was beginning to agitate him considerably," a military spokesman said.

The gunman was obviously tired and our patient approach was beginning to wear him down. We detected in his voice that he was beginning to lose control of himself, the hostages and the situation. Reuters.

## Prisoners that Ethiopia wants to forget

By Roger Bebbington

At least £200,000 worth of medical supplies are desperately needed by the Eritrean People's Liberation Front to cope with the problem of between 4,000 and 5,000 disease-stricken Ethiopian prisoners, according to Miss Mary Dines, general secretary of War on Want, who has just returned from a month in Eritrea.

At a press conference in London yesterday she launched a report of her findings which she hopes will persuade the aid organizations of the West to send the necessary help.

Miss Dines visited three camps where the prisoners, whose existence is denied by the Ethiopian Government, are held. She was struck by the good treatment they were receiving.

At a camp in Nefsa she found 2,000 soldiers and 14 officers. They included members of the Flame Brigade, troops trained by the Israeli anti-guerrilla tactics and considered the most effective soldiers in the Eritrean

Army. About 100 had been wounded. There was a chronic shortage of blankets, and the prisoners suffered from persistent attacks of malaria, dysentery and bronchitis. They were bitter that the Ethiopian Government had disclaimed all knowledge of them, and feared that if they returned they would be shot.

Another camp, called Sahel I, held 450 soldiers, about half from the "Red Army"—peasants pressed-ganged or kidnapped, as they put it, into the Ethiopian Army and identifiable by their Red and shambling appearance, Miss Dines said.

Many prisoners have been allowed to return home secretly. Some were captured with their rifles (mostly Russian Kalashnikovs) muzzled, bullets not even in the breeches. Harsh though conditions in the camps were, they were not much harsher than those outside, where many of the same diseases were also found. Miss Dines's report lists examples of indiscriminate

slaughter of Eritrean civilians by Ethiopian troops since the Dergue Government under Colonel Mengistu took over in Addis Ababa in February, 1975.

In March that year, for example, Ethiopian soldiers in two separate raids slaughtered more than 500 people in the village of Woldi. Most of the women, children and old men were killed with knives. Pregnant women were slit open with bayonets. Survivors buried the dead in three mass graves.

Last October soldiers stopped at a village called Marfano, burnt it down and killed unknown numbers to death. Miss Dines believes the Western World has committed what has been happening in Eritrea ever since Emperor Haile Selassie annexed the territory in 1962 and made it a province of Ethiopia.

## Settlement still eludes Rhodesia negotiators

From Frederick Cleary  
Salisbury, Dec. 22

Rhodesia's internal settlement talks appear to have slowed down again after a reported breakthrough yesterday.

It is believed there is still a gap between Mr. Ian Smith's Government and the African nationalists, particularly Bishop Muzorewa. It concerns the mechanics of a proposed system which would allow the minority whites in a black-majority parliament to veto legislation they considered detrimental to whites.

The bishop is said to have made an important concession yesterday, but to have backed out at the last moment. Another issue today, questioned at the end of today's two-and-a-half-hour session, Mr. Smith said: "You cannot always make a lot of progress can you? There are times when you make more progress and there are times when you make less progress."

Asked what sort of day this was, Mr. Smith replied: "I think it is fair for me to say that we made more progress yesterday than today. However we are still going."

In a separate statement today, Bishop Muzorewa's United African National Council (UANC) said that by the time the internal talks had reached a successful finality all opposition to them would slow down. The net whites would be outside the country. The statement said there was already general acceptance among blacks and white Rhodesians of imminent and decisive political change.

Countering the argument of black critics of the talks that Mr. Smith cannot be trusted, the statement said: "Because a man is untrustworthy does not necessarily mean he is immune to pressure." Mr. Smith was under great pressure to obtain a settlement, it went on. The rainy season was here and he knew what that meant militarily. The ethos of whites, some of whom put him into office, was continuing. The

countryside was increasingly unsafe to live in.

It added that the other principal argument against the present talks was that any internal settlement would not have the support of the guerrilla fighters. "While politicians speak from safe locations in Salisbury and Lusaka, the peasant who meets the fighters on a weekly and daily basis is constantly furnished with their current thinking. What these peasants report is different from the politicians' pronouncements."

The UANC statement said Mr. Smith was the right man to negotiate with, as most Rhodesian whites stood by him. "Mr. Smith can never negotiate a communist takeover just as Bishop Muzorewa cannot negotiate the perpetuation of white minority rule. Somewhere in between these viewpoints lies the solution which would be acceptable to the nation as a whole."

According to official figures released today, Rhodesia suffered a net loss of 576 whites in November, to bring the total outflow of whites in the first 11 months of this year to nearly 10,000. The highest loss was in November only 390 whites arrived while 966 left. Altogether 1977 is the worst year for net emigration in Rhodesia's history exceeding the 8,710 net loss in 1963.

The net whites 2005 whites for the first 11 months of this year compares with a loss of 5,914 for the same period in 1976.

A white civilian, Mr. Harry Whitehorn, aged 53, of Salisbury, was killed when his vehicle hit a landmine. A black bus driver was killed and three passengers injured in another incident. Security forces have killed six more guerrillas. Two tribesmen have been killed and another brutally mutilated by guerrilla gangs.

Freilink (Mozambique) forces have fired on security forces in the eastern border area and fire was returned.

## Churches pay full inquest costs of Biko family

From Our Own Correspondent  
Johannesburg, Dec. 22

The full cost to the family of the inquest on the South African Black Consciousness leader, Steve Biko, is being paid by the South African Council of Churches through its Asilanti Relief Fund, it was announced today.

The council's acting general secretary, Mr. John Rees, said that the costs of the legal team headed by Mr. Sydney Kentridge which represented the Biko family were expected to be about £50,000. Earlier reports that the costs might run to as much as £165,000 were "the figment of some excited person's imagination".

The Asilanti fund was set up on June 16 last year, the day that the disturbances began in Soweto. Since then the fund has helped in more than 1,000 legal cases of various sizes, of which the biggest was the Biko inquest.

According to Mr. Rees, funds have been received only from Christian churches inside South Africa and overseas. Refusing accusations that overseas agencies had been interfering in South African affairs, Mr. Rees said that the funds were not earmarked in any way and that only the South African Council of Churches decided how to spend the money.

pro-government Johannesburg newspaper *The Citizen*, said today that the South Africa project of the United States Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights had sent about £50,000 to South Africa for legal fees in Black Consciousness cases during the past year.

The report added that the project operated through three South African lawyers and was directly involved in every political case that came before the South African courts.

Earlier this week the *Washington Post* reported that the Rights had sent about £50,000 to South Africa for legal fees in Black Consciousness cases during the past year.

However tonight Mr. Shum Carr, the Biko family's lawyer, stated that the American project had almost nothing to do with the funding of the legal costs. He added that allegations about coordination from America were "nonsense".

The issue of outside financing for political organisations or legal cases is a very sensitive one in South Africa. This was one of the main targets of inquiry carried out by the Schlebusch Commission which was set up in 1973 to investigate four organisations, among them the now banned Christian Institute.

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## OVERSEAS

# International protests fail to halt imprisonment of Soviet dissidents in mental hospitals

By Peter Reddaway

In spite of last August's condemnation by the World Psychiatric Association (WPA), the KGB (security police) and some Soviet psychiatrists are continuing to intern dissenters in mental hospitals.

Observers believe that by continuing the internments the KGB may be testing the resolve of the WPA, which is setting up a committee to monitor such abuses and recommend measures for combating them. The Royal College of Psychiatrists has contributed to its budget.

Inside the Soviet Union the opposition is being led by the Working Commission to Investigate the Use of Psychiatry for Political Purposes. This group was formed a year ago as an adjunct to Yuri Orlov's group, monitoring Soviet adherence to the human rights provisions of the Helsinki accord. It welcomed the stand taken by the WPA in August and last month it appealed to the world organization to exert pressure on Moscow to bring the abuses to an end.

The commission listed five new cases. Further internments have been reported by other reliable sources.

In early November, Mr. Anatoly Ponomarev, aged 44, an engineer, was interned in a Leningrad mental hospital. He was first put in hospital in 1971, for "acute and chronic" psychoses. After his release he could not get a job and when he applied to emigrate he was reinterned.

This time he became the patient of Dr. Marina Volkova, a psychiatrist now resident in London. She quickly saw that he was not mentally

ill and had him discharged. When she emigrated he was interned once more. In September, Mr. Vladimir Roshdestov, a 40-year-old civil engineer, was arrested and placed in the same mental hospital in Leningrad in which Dr. Zhores Medvedev, the biologist now living in London, was interned in 1970. One of his psychiatrists was Dr. Galina Bondarova, who also examined Dr. Medvedev.

At his trial last month he was charged with listening to foreign broadcasts, agitating about the low wages of workers, and "extolling the Western way of life". A Leningrad court sentenced him to compulsory treatment in a mental hospital for an indefinite period.

On October 6, Mr. Mikhail Kuibakha, aged 41, a long-standing dissident, was interned in a mental hospital in the Byelorussian town of Mogilev and given compulsory drug treatment. A few months earlier he had "circulated an essay 'Dissent and the Defence of Human Rights are Indivisible', a copy of which has reached the West.

The head of his ward, Dr. Nadezhda Drapkina, explained his internment by referring to "decorations in his room". To put up an icon and photographs of people like Academician Sakharov and General Gromyko goes against the "Defence of Human Rights are Indivisible".

Dr. Andrei Sakharov, the former nuclear scientist, is a leading dissident and a Nobel prize winner. General Gromyko is one of the leaders of the Moscow monitoring group.

Other new cases reported by the Working Commission include those of Mr. Yuri Yivash, interned in Dnepropetrovsk, and Miss Galina Kukarskikh and Mr. Vladimir Veretennikov, both held in Leningrad.

The KGB is inhibited by the WPA's condemnation from breaking up its usual methods. In July it threatened to give Mr. Alexander Podrabinek, the commission's most active member and the author of the book *Punitive Medicine*, a sentence of 10 years. But to carry out this threat would no longer be expedient. So three weeks ago it ordered Mr. Podrabinek to emigrate. Since he does not wish to emigrate, he refused.

To persuade him to change his mind the KGB has begun to employ a tactic it has used against Dr. Sakharov—the persecution of his relatives. In October it planned some "trickery" on his brother, Mr. Kirill Podrabinek, at his place of work. But it could not then prove that they belonged to him.

So four days later KGB men came to search Kirill's flat. The officer in charge went straight to a cupboard, put his fist into the first jacket he found, and pulled it out again with two cartridges in it.



Mr. Hayden: An electoral asset.

## Election of Mr Hayden blow to left

From Our Correspondent Melbourne, Dec. 22

Mr. William Hayden was today elected to succeed Mr. Gough Whitlam as leader of the Australian Labour Party. Mr. Hayden, who is 44, defeated the only other contender, Mr. Lionel Bowen by 36 votes to 28.

Mr. Bowen was then elected deputy leader. Both Mr. Hayden and Mr. Bowen are seen as moderates within the Labour Party so the result was a blow to the left wing, and to the former deputy leader, Mr. Tom Wren.

Mr. Hayden emerged as a force in Australian politics during the Whitlam Government. He was the first appointed Minister for Social Security and won approval for his national health scheme, Medibank. He was later appointed Treasurer of the nation when the Whitlam administration was losing support.

Mr. Hayden comes from a humble Queensland background. He left school at 16 to join the public service as a clerk but soon became discontent and joined the Queensland Police Force.

He became Labour candidate for the Liberal-held Queensland seat of Oxley. Only when he won in the 1961 election. At 28 he was the youngest member of Parliament.

During the following year he took a degree in economics and has since been seen as an economist in the parliamentary Labour Party.

## Chile to hold plebiscite over UN censure

From Florence Vivas Santiago, Dec. 22

In his most important speech since the military junta took power in 1973, President Pinochet has asked all Chileans to participate in a plebiscite to decide whether they support him or whether they agree with the recent resolution of censure adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.

In a speech broadcast last night on radio and television, President Pinochet accused the United Nations of "interference in an international plot to bring about the downfall of the Chilean Government".

The President said the recent General Assembly resolution which was approved by 96 votes to 14 with 25 abstentions and condemned the Chilean Government "for violating human rights" surpassed all "previous resolutions" against "our nation".

He said the situation here last night was "a situation of 150,000 people, 138,000 of whom are cases from before the military takeover, 285 (41 per cent) occurred on unknown dates, and 264 (39 per cent) after the coup".

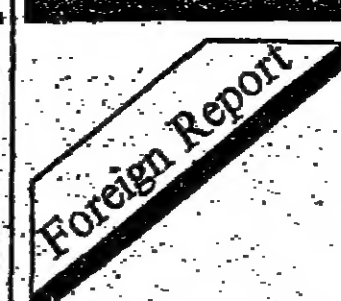
The second list of 573 names is to be shaped as a "redacted" list, age, date, fate, but these details are only completed in one case, partially completed in 11, and name and fate only are given for the rest. In all the names, this is said to have been arrested.

Of the 395 disappeared people in the third list, some cases date from before the takeover. Of the 52 names on page 1 alone, 18 (29 per cent) are duplicated in the computerized list, and one is duplicated in the second list. The Argentine "police" journalist, Señor Mariano Grondano was amused to hear that he was on the list, having been detained a few hours by the police last year.

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Confronted with the stigma of belonging to Japan's invariable race of 3,000,000 "untouchables", Mr. Watanabe was left in a crowded ghetto in Kyoto 24 years ago to establish a new life and identity in Tokyo.

A happily married official in a Yokohama bank today, Mr. Watanabe, 49, is secretly consumed by fear—a prey to black-magic, prejudice and ruin if his origins are discovered.

The slightly balding and round-faced man changed his address six times before his marriage—and has taken other elaborate steps to sever his connection with the ghetto in recent years.

Like another million or so of Japan's unknown minority community of outcasts, the "Buraku-min", Mr. Watanabe has been passing himself off as an ordinary Japanese in the anonymity of urban life for more than two decades. He has successfully concealed his origins from his family, friends and employers since 1953—and he still lives, with the cold threat of exposure to his heart.

The social stigma would ruin his family and his career. From outward appearances it would be impossible to draw differences between Mr. Watanabe and the average Japanese.

They are of the same race, speak the same language and worship the same gods. As a result Buraku-min can only be identified if their antecedents are traced back to any one of the existing 6,000 Buraku ghettos.

Yet mindless prejudice, based on ancient hatreds, has driven the centuries, continues to

plague 3,000,000 Japanese outcasts today. Relegated to degrading jobs in the past, the Buraku-min still come up against prejudice when they seek better jobs or attempt to marry outside their community. In many cases, private detectives are hired to carry out a dreaded "background check" (background check) on prospective employees and marriage partners.

In the past the origins of Buraku-min in big cities could only be traced back to the ghetto through the government's official family register. A curt message from a detective usually leads to rejections in employment and marriage, and in many cases to suicide.

Much to the relief of the minority community, the government has refused to issue both family registers and lists of Buraku ghettos to the public in recent years. But their relief was short-lived. Mr. Watanabe and 1,500,000 other Buraku-min are now living with the constant fear that their future might be compromised in a new private book which has been compiled by the personnel managers of large Japanese companies and private detectives at £100 a copy.

Compiled by a number of unscrupulous publishers, the book contains a list of the names and street of Buraku ghettos. Distributed by mail order, the book also carries details of a confidential government survey which will help business firms to identify Buraku-min employees in the cities.

Japan's Buraku Liberation Movement, an organization associated with the Japanese Socialist Party, is furious. The movement's director, Professor Murakoshi, one of the few Buraku-min who proudly

announce their heritage, says the organization has compiled a dossier on 100 big Japanese firms who have purchased the lists.

"Since the government stopped publishing details of the Buraku ghettos, seven private lists have been distributed. This is a scandalous conspiracy, are preying on prejudice. It also looks as though all this material must have emanated from government offices. The Government has carried out several confidential surveys in recent years and it looks as though someone has leaked or sold the material to these private publishers. It's going to ruin thousands of lives," Professor Murakoshi claims.

At the moment there is no law in Japan to penalize the publishers for acts of discrimination.

"We need a law to fight discrimination," Professor Murakoshi says. "Prejudice is so deep seated that people will go to any lengths to establish whether a person is a Buraku-min or not. It mostly ends in tragedy when parents hire detectives to check on the background of prospective brides or grooms. I know one man who changed his address 20 times to elude detectives away from the fact that he was born in a ghetto. But they found out. His girlfriend's parents banned the marriage, and he committed suicide."

Admittedly Japan has reared a limited number of wealthy Buraku-min, particularly in the meat trade, but in general, the outcasts are found at the bottom of the economic scale. Like the "untouchables", the Buraku-min are predominantly employed in menial jobs, considered as degrading centuries

ago: street and sewer cleaners, workers in leather factories, butchers and scrap collectors. Today the Buraku-min are also employed in poorly paid daily labourers in the construction industry. Even the few Buraku-min who fight their way up to university cannot hope to secure a level of employment commensurate with their standard of education if their background is exposed.

Significantly, a large proportion of Japanese emigrants who are settling in Brazil are Buraku-min. Professor Murakoshi says.

The majority of Japan's outcasts from the main stream of society still live in 6,000 ghettos—both villages and enclaves in urban areas. An estimated 1,500,000 are attempting to conceal their identities after improving their positions in the anonymity of big urban areas. But have Mr. Watanabe's fears? "We are consumed by fear every day. We are scared, terrified that someone will point a finger at us. My son is now 22 years old. He is at university and is not aware of my background. Next year he will look for a job. What happens if his employers check my background? It would destroy my family and my position in the bank."

The outsider finds it difficult to understand prejudice in an otherwise civilized race. Society is not plagued by racial or religious discrimination. Professor Murakoshi suggests that Japan's prejudices against the Buraku-min are founded on class differences which originate in the Nara period, the eighth century. The lower workers were defined as *hinin*—non-humans—at the time, and the prejudices have been handed down from generation to generation.

"People who live in the same ghettos are not only poor and dirty, and they are ostracized. It is all a myth, but it is said," Professor Murakoshi says.

Peter Hazelhurst

## Journalist's dilemma whether to report goings on at off-the-record Washington social event

### Inside story of the 'pyramids party'

From William Safire Washington

Miss Barbara Walters, the television personality, gave a dinner party in Washington recently to bring together the ambassadors of Egypt and Israel, who had never officially acknowledged each other in the past. The evening turned out to be memorable.

Mr. Art Buchwald, the columnist, drawing on an old Jack Kennedy quip, praised his hostess for bringing together two men who have been ideologically miles apart, who fought each other over the years—Mr. Hamilton Jordan and myself. As it turned out, both Mr. Jordan, who is President Carter's White House aide, and I got in trouble that night.

My social scramble was in making notes of the speeches. Whenever present at a historic occasion, I like to write down everything I hear. The editor of the Washington Post, who was under the impression that a private dinner was off the record, took umbrage at my note-taking, and later prevailed upon the hostess to point out to me that what I had written down was not for publication. Under his pressure, and blushing at my journalistic pushiness, I pocketed my notes.

Mr. Jordan did even worse. It seems he made a vulgar remark about the lady next to him, who happened to be

the wife of the Egyptian ambassador. [According to eyewitness accounts, the "pyramids incident" Mr. Jordan pulled on the top of Mr. Ghorbal's dress and, staring downwards, declared: "I have always wanted to see the pyramids."]

An account of this episode appeared in the gossip column of the Washington Star, which evidently moved the editor of the Washington Post to rethink his previous insistence that Miss Walters' dinner for 40 was all off the record.

Miss Sally Quinn of the Washington Post, in her vivid style and in italics, recorded Mr. Jordan's crude behaviour and early announcements. The New York Times, with decorum and reporting appropriate details, covered the story in full.

Since the entire press corps followed this up by serenading Mr. Joseph Powell, Press Secretary, with "See the pyramids along the Nile" (in a heavy-handed reference to Mr. Jordan's crude behaviour), I feel somewhat lonely in my adherence to off-the-record strictures and will therefore print some notes.

Unfortunately, the Jordan incident took place at another level, and I have no lip-smacking details to add.

Mr. Simcha Dinitz, Israel's Ambassador, with a sense of the occasion, paid tribute to his Egyptian colleague for his ability and professionalism—and sometimes I was not too happy about it—but always when I could tell him that he praised President Sadat's bold act after which the Middle East cannot be the same any more. Then Mr. Ashraf Ghorbal, the Egyptian Ambassador, said the first time, he said quietly and with feeling, Mr. Dinitz has spoken for both Israel and Egypt.

To the hushed room, the Egyptian envoy pleaded that the half of his nation to strive for a full, comprehensive settlement, not leave it to the next generation. He reminded his audience of the aspirations of the Palestinians and raised the prospect of peace, to the Israeli Ambassador and to President Carter.

There, in that room, at that moment, not even the most cynical media scribes could help but be touched by the drama of the beginning of communication between two strong spokesmen of nations that have spent a generation at war.

The moment passed, the dinner ended, and we all fell to squabbling about ground rules for coverage and murmuring about the earlier behaviour of Mr. White House aide. But long after the gates are forgotten, the warmth and graciousness of the first meeting of the two ambassadors at Miss Walters' dinner party will be remembered.

New York Times News Service.

## Chess chief tries to save match

Belgrade, Dec. 22—Dr. Max Euwe, president of the International Chess Federation, arrived in Belgrade tonight to try to solve a dispute which threatens the match between the world title challenger, Boris Spassky and Viktor Korchnoi.

The dispute, which has held up play for the past three days, is over whether a demonstration board for spectators should be within sight of the two players. It became an issue after the eleventh game—the first won by Spassky.

After Korchnoi had complained, the referee ordered that the demonstration board be moved out of sight of the players. Spassky has since refused to play.

Dr. Euwe will see both players. Korchnoi is leading 6½-3½ in the match to decide who challenges Anatoly Karpov for the world title.—Reuter.

## In brief

### Murderer admits 32 killings

Riverside, California, Dec. 22—Patrick Kearney, aged 38, a self-confessed homosexual who wanted revenge for the ridicule heaped on him as a child, has confessed to the largest number of killings in the largest number of killings attributed to one man in recent times, the prosecutor's office said here today.

Mr. Kearney, who had pleaded guilty to three murders yesterday, admitted he had killed 32 other people. Many victims were backed to pieces and their bodies "stuffed" into plastic rubbish bags.

19 die in mosque  
Tehran, Dec. 22—Nineteen women and children died and several people were injured in a stampede when the lights went out in a crowded mosque in a town on the Caspian coast.

### US intelligence deputy

Plains, Georgia, Dec. 22—President Carter has nominated Mr. Frank Carlucci, United States Ambassador to Portugal, as deputy director of Central Intelligence to serve under Admiral Stansfield Turner.

### Kidnap victim killed

Bogota, Dec. 22—Señor Alberto Pardo León, a wealthy Colombian businessman, kidnapped in early December, has been found dead in the city outside. He had been stabbed seven times.

### California storm deaths

Los Angeles, Dec. 22—Nine people died in storms which ripped across California with hurricane force, tearing down power lines, uprooting trees and raising a blinding dust storm.

### Rare falcon birth

Ottawa, Dec. 22—A peregrine falcon has produced offspring in Alberta in what is believed to be the first successful mating of its kind in captivity.

## Doubts cast on US list of missing Argentines

From Andrew Tarowski Buenos Aires, Dec. 22

Evidence has emerged in Buenos Aires casting doubts on the credibility of a highly publicized list, prepared by human rights groups in the United States, of people who have allegedly suffered violations of human rights in Argentina.

The list was brought here last month by Mr. Cyrus Vance, the United States Secretary of State. The United States Embassy later delivered it to the Argentine Government.

Even before Mr. Vance left Washington it was widely referred to in the international press as listing 7,500 people allegedly detained without trial or abducted since the military coup. Mr. Vance let it be known that he had raised the matter with the Argentine military rulers.

After studying the list for nine hours over two days, I can reveal that it totals 5,591 names. Many of the alleged cases occurred before last year's military takeover, some as far back as 1974. Many more are not dated. Some are names with no source of corroborating detail.

The list consists in fact of the following four lists: A 93-page computer print-out of 4,151 names collected by an "Argentine Information Service Centre" (AISC) in the United States; a typewritten list attached with 973 names; an Argentine list of 395 disappeared persons; a list of 67 disappearances in the Argentine city of Mendoza.

The largest, computerized section is entitled "Partial list of victims of repression in Argentina compiled by AISC as of November 4, 1977".

A study of 15 sample pages reveals that, despite the way it has been published and entitled, it is not restricted to the situation under the present Argentine Government, still

less to the situation here last night.

Of 687 names on the 15 pages, 138 (20 per cent) are cases from before the military takeover, 285 (41 per cent) occurred on unknown dates, and 264 (39 per cent) after the coup.

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## The man who makes the Nazis jump

A hundred yards or so from the Danube Canal and from Vienna's monument to its victims of the Gestapo in the Second World War, in an anonymous block of flats, with an air of bearing an uncanny resemblance to an air raid shelter, housing the Jewish Documentation Centre whose director, Dr. Simon Wiesenthal, 68, pursues the relentless activity which has earned him a reputation as the scourge of Nazi criminals who escaped justice after 1945.

There is a closed circuit television camera mounted to the splay in the door, and the doorbell on the street is marked anonymously enough for only those who know where they are going to be able to find the way. Vienna is not especially comfortable about the presence of an active Nazi hunter, and the atmosphere has not been improved by the running battle between Dr. Wiesenthal and the Chancellor, Dr. Bruno Kreisky, currently being fought out over the head of a Dutch businessman who is being taken to court by Dr. Kreisky for saying in a book that Dr. Kreisky called Dr. Wiesenthal "a Jewish fascist".

Dr. Wiesenthal stopped trying to bring Austria's Nazi justice three years ago, after a row of cases had been dismissed. "I'm not a Don Quixote," he says. "They don't want to prosecute Nazis here. There are plenty of other places, such as America, where they will, where they will."

A large, humorous man who talks as intensely as he still works, he says he will carry on his work as long as he is physically capable of doing so. He is a very fit man, just returned from a tour of America and from Rome, where he presided over the Sakharov Tribunal, and he has no obvious successor. "I estimate that by 1985 the West German press will die out," he said, "because by then most of the accused and the witnesses will be dead."

His main objective is no longer solely to bring Nazi criminals to court. He considers that the Documentation Centre's activities in tracking down Nazis in countries where they will not be extradited or prosecuted serves an educational purpose, reminding a younger generation constantly of the dangers of forgetting the past. In particular, he alludes to the danger of a resurgence of Nazism in general. Of Britain's National Front he says: "All these neo-Nazi wait for political or economic crises, and hope their history will repeat itself." He is particularly angry about historian David Irving's defence of Hitler, since a British historian, he says, since taken more seriously than a German one. "I don't know what damage he has done to the minds of young people."

"When we sabre-rattle," Dr. Wiesenthal says, "a man like Mengele doesn't sleep in the sun. He has to be in the sun. Although he cannot get his hands on the former Auschwitz concentration camp doctor, Dr. Wiesenthal knows he can make life highly uncomfortable for him and all the others on his list. One thousand one hundred court cases have emerged from his work to date. His international network is searching day and night. In America, one has led to the deportation of about 100 former Nazis who escaped from Eastern Europe during the cold war."

Dr. Wiesenthal, a fervent anti-

Communist, considers the cold war the root of much evil. "The Nazis in hiding were those who won the cold war," he says. "The only stupid Nazi criminal was one who committed suicide in 1945. The cold war enabled hundreds to emigrate, to simply disappear." The other main post-war error was made by the Jews themselves, he believes. There were 11,500,000 dead as a result of Nazi persecution," he says. "And we Jews have always refused only to the 6,000,000 of our own people. We should have fought for justice for all 11,500,000. If we had done that we would have found far more allies, but we missed our chance."

There is no such thing as an "ex-Nazi," Dr. Wiesenthal says. "National socialism was a religion and a party at the same time. It is soaked into all their pores. It demanded something of its members every day, just like Communism. An old Nazi may change his party and his allegiance, but he still carries 80 per cent of his old political baggage with him."

The former Nazis are certainly not old, sick or limited in numbers, he says. They are not the soldiers who fought at the front, but the policy-makers behind the scenes. Relatively few of them got killed. Of the 10,000,000 National Socialists at the end of the war, many of them very young, he estimates, were directed at involving the younger generation, some 2,000,000 are still alive. According to Dr. Wiesenthal, 5,000,000 of these are in West Germany, 1,500,000 in the G.D.R., where many have become Communists, 300,000 in Austria and the remaining 200,000 throughout the world.

Take the present leader of

the Liberal Party here in Austria, Friedrich Peter," he says. "He is 57, at the height of his political career and a self-confessed active former National Socialist."

He has a great trust in the West German youth of today," he adds. "They are a serious and sensible generation. The extremists we read about are in no way representative. In West Germany the gap between the generations is larger than elsewhere, and I want to keep that older generation on the defensive as long as they live."

In the endless discussion on the justification of still prosecuting war criminals—a term Dr. Wiesenthal considers erroneous since Nazi crimes started long before war broke out—his standpoint is clear. "There is no punishment sufficient," he says. "There is a conflict between the letter and the spirit of the law which cannot be resolved. If they are sentenced to death or to life imprisonment people feel justice has been done. But if, like one man who was responsible for the deportation of 1,100,000 to the gas chambers, they get nine years, then you could say that is equivalent to half a minute's jail per life. Human life is about the cheapest thing there is."

Next hunting down Dr. Wiesenthal believes, has thus both an educational and a judicial function. "I want them to feel that no place on earth will be safe," he says. "I want them to lose their peace of mind and sometimes, like those who are being thrown out of America, all they have built up since their escape. That is also a form of punishment."

Sue Masterman

## Animal lovers, saboteurs and a vegetarian diet for dogs

First there was the inquiring over Victor the giraffe. Then there was the lobbying of Parliament over the export of live animals. Now there is the campaign to save the other: a new magazine for rural rodents, the *Vole*; and there will be an exhibition on *The Animal in Art* at a branch of the World Wildlife Fund (Panda House, 29 Grosvenor Street, London, EC4N 3AX (tel. 01-403 6558).

On December 2, at the British Museum, which has just published *Animals in Art* by Jessica Rawson.

Animals continue to be a main preoccupation of the British, and this is reflected not only in the number of pressure groups concerned for their welfare, but also the passions







# Boycott stays behind to roll out the barrel of soft drink

## Women leave for India

# Index

By Rex Bellamy  
Tennis Correspondent

mentality should be moderated the five United States champions have been united in one tournament only eight years. The women's played there since 1921, has the continuous association with Hills.

# Australians pick same 12 for next two Tests

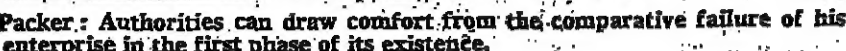
be a fairly light-bearded exercise.  
However after their defeat in the Test and the 3,000-mile flight from Perth to Brisbane, it was a little surprising to find the Indians are all dispersed. India's captain remains cheerful about the test prospects.

The Aussies are able to smile about narrow defeats in both Tests, two wickets in Perth and 36 in Brisbane. "These sort of results are not good for the heads," says Captain Lindsay Blears, "but our two opening Sheffield Shield batsmen—old Lancashire off-spinner, Ted Hammond and his younger brother, who played in his sixth season as coach at Northern Tasmania Cricket Association in Launceston. The Indians have yet to announce their first choice of players for the field the team that lost to Victoria earlier this month.—Renter,

## Poor man's cry from rich man's wreckage

The highlight of the series the matches between an Australian XI and West Indian XI (virtually the full team) was already disgraced by the first two matches which should have spanned five days each, both ended in three and, worse still, in heavy defeats for the Australians. Ten days of receipts, such as they were, were not enough to cover the cost of the television were similarly cut to six. We are involved here in not so much, on sporting occasion as a television spectacular, in which the players are usually only a sideshow, as in the sense of the expression, "With the series already decided, the third match is hardly likely to command any great public support."

It is, therefore, doubtful if the three matches against a so-called World XI will have even the appeal, muted as it was, of those against the West Indians. At least in those matches national pride



Those of us who felt, from the start, that the venture might be ill-founded, have so far seen our views vindicated. There has to be something more as stark than a parade of semi-dramatic, illustrative contrasts. Audience involvement, if anything, is more important than there is nothing like national, regional and national pride, jingoistic fervor and may sound, for rousing the passions.

We were led to believe, in the days of high summer and high hopes, that

The authorities would probably be content to allow the legal case to drop if they were convinced that the Packer series was collapsing under its own weight of high-level promise and low-level achievement. But the character of the series, Packer remains the enigma. Given the man he is, would he, also,

If there is seen to be no proper substitute for authorized Test cricketers in the game, I believe, will be no more better for the discovery, do not accept that the top players are the peepers they are said to be and I speak at one who heard every word uttered by the nine players who gave evidence during the inquiry but it is a clear case for something to be done for the run-of-the-mill country player. There is where the priority lies.

bowlers in the first Test match and his strong-arm batting and all-round competence in the field would also be welcomed (Reuters report).

"I shall be speaking to my county secretary Ken Turner, to have him with the position. I have to return before Feldman."

## Lewis loses \$2,000 to find compensation in Tanner

Lebourne, Dec 2. Christopher Lewis, 26-year-old Australian, continued his remarkable form today when he beat Roscoe Tanner, American, in the first round of the Australian open tennis championships at Kooyung here today. Lewis, who has won the first round of a tournament in Adelaide last fortnight ago, defeated the second-seeded Tanner 2-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Lewis admitted afterwards that this mind had "wandered to the other side of the fence" during the chugging round yesterday.

After today's performance he is certain to recoup most of the \$100,000 prize money he lost in the second round he will pick up \$126,000.

Detour. Lewis was called to court yesterday after Lewis reported the money missing. He recovered \$1,700 worth of interest on the stolen cash, and was able to cancel a \$12,500 cheque, but the cash had not been found late.

# Rosslyn Park bring

## glad tidings

By Gordon Allan

Rosslyn Park 15      Coventry 9

Rosslyn Park beat Coventry 9-1 in a friendly match on Saturday. The two tries to nothing at Roehampton last evening. It was one of Park's best performances of the season and they certainly were well organized. Rugby by their forwards and excellent kicking by all concerned.

Roehampton missed no easy penalty for Coventry, and obtained a difficult one for Park in the second half. Roehampton also made a dangerous run down the right flank, to underline the fact that Coventry were having much trouble in the defence. They had the advantage. Gradually, however, Park forced themselves into the game.

With half an hour gone, Park took the lead. They spun the ball from inside their own half, missed a couple of times, but then they

## Snags for fixture planners caused by All Blacks' tour

**Rugby Correspondent**

The two months' tour of the All Blacks in these islands at the end of 1974, coming at a time when the two teams were overlapping the visit of Argentina to England in September/October, will cause a number of people to wonder if the fixtures planners, The Air Commodore Bob Weighill, secretary of the Rugby Football Union, has not tumbled around his head over Christmas by way of preparation for the coming year.

The Rugby Football Union has four home unions. Committees have spent winter when and how often the English game will feature in the New Year idyll.

The Argentinians seem likely to play their first match on September 14, 1975, against Wales. If the fixtures may be played in Ireland or Wales. One of the fixtures, the 14, will be an international against England, so the RFU may need to be a little more careful.

The original plan was to split the

## Hignell may join Bedford

Alastair Hignell will make his first appearance for Bristol for nearly two years against New-Bristol at the Memorial Ground on Monday Day, in what looks like being his last season with the club. Hignell, who also plays for the Barbours at Leicester, on December 27, is seriously considering joining Bedford, where he hopes to take up a teaching appointment when he comes down from Cambridge. Unofficially next year.

Hignell said: "Nothing has been finally arranged but I want a teaching job which will leave

## Mallett injury mars victory

Mid-Season, Dec. 2.—An Australian XI won a dramatic and decisive victory over the English team in their two-day County Cup match at Millers, 1-10. The Australians, who were 357 to win, the Australians batted for seven and a quarter hours in the first innings and failed to achieve their target.

Their victory was marred by the injury to Ian Malcolm, who was knocked out by a bouncer from a young Kiwi named John. The Australians were only two runs short of victory.

Malcolm ducked to avoid the ball but it hit him on the back of the head.

He was carried from the ground on a stretcher, admitted to hospital and remained overnight for observation. The victory put the Australians in the lead of the County Cup series.

A "Tribune" of 1956 mentions that "the English captain, David Gower, was a slender, well-built, and good-looking young man."

endent spirit of enterprise pays off

In the same way, the pioneering status of the Virginia Slims circuit for women is gradually being absorbed within the newly-coordinated corporate series. For the professionals, the whole is now better organized than it has ever been, not least in the necessary development of subsidiary circuits for players on the way up or the way down.

Continuously independent spirit of enterprise shown by WCT and Virginia Slims has had healthy long-term effects. These administrative battles with the International Lawn Tennis Federation (which has since

the players' strike, the same public's approval, double the increasing prize, WCT, World Women's Tennis, and the year after, the year at tournaments and doubles accepted a considerable prize. Players' national association, one event and stature. Many

tion recognized by the motion of doubles by Alan Tennis, the grand slam series—but has not in the prize-money featuring both singles and doubles. When disguised as justice, injustice has: cost of survival.

They prefer to ensure an edge by concentrating on singles has the greater edge to regard doubles as

currently led by Christine Lee, an exemplary in the rule (notational self-indulgence is usually the inadequate place to blame someone for the adversities and deficiencies. I such need.

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## Latest European snow reports

	Depth (m)	Plate	Conditions On plate	Kuna So Resort	Weather (5 pm.)	C
Average	20 100	Good	Crust	Fine	-	0
Superb power on plain						
Crust-Mountain	20 100	Good	Crust	Good	Fine	0
Good conditions on plates						
Crust	20 100	Good	Varied	Closest	Fine	-3
Best sitting on Parsenn	10 30	Fair	Varied	Poor	Cloud	5
Flims						
Skilling above 1,500 meters						
Isola	32 132	Good	Varied	Good	Cloud	0
Light snow on hard base						
La Plaine	54 90	Good	Varied	Good	Fine	-1
Slight fall of new snow						
Ees Arce	15 30	Fair	Varied	Fair	Fine	-4
New-snow on hard base						
La Manden	18 38	Fair	Crust	Poor	Fine	2
Worn patches on lower slopes						
Murren	15 28	Fair	Crust	Fair	Cloud	3
Good patches on most slopes						
St. Anton	8 50	Fair	Crust	Poor	Fair	2
Worn patches on most slopes						
Seefeld	10 40	Fair	Crust	Poor	Fine	2
Slopes worn, few runs open						
Val d'Isere	33 75	Good	Varied	Fair	Fine	-2
Lower slopes icy, upper good						
Zermatt	15 15	Fair	Varied	Poor	Cloud	-2
Lower slopes ridged, some icy						
Wengen	5 30	Fair	Varied	Poor	Fine	1
Good sitting on upper slopes						

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of

## Skiing

**Plank has crowd  
screaming  
itself cuckoo**

Corinna D'Ampenzo, Dec. 22—Herbert Plank, of Italy, gained his second World Cup downhill ski victory of the season today and so silenced the so-called "cuckoo" ski controversy that has sounded the alarm between the Austrian and Italian teams.

More than 25,000 spectators shrieked themselves hoarse as Plank shot down the 3,350 meters Tofana course (vertical drop 858 meters) in 1min.50.99 sec.

Plank's win put to rest an Austrian charge that Italian timekeepers had interfered with the electronic equipment to ensure a victory for Plank in the downhill ski.

Vlad Cvetkovic, of Yugoslavia, was

Bernard Russ, a student of the University of Zurich, who needed an injection before the race to kill the pain in his injured knee, came in second in 14 min. 51 sec. The 22-year-old westerner finished put the beleaguered Swiss back in the downhill running.

Peter Wirsbeger, aged 19, of Austria, was third in 14 min. 52 sec. and his teammate, Klaus-Eberhard fourth in 14 min. 51 sec. Franz Schuster, 21, of the Olympic sample finished a poor eighth behind his teammate, Rudi Gassbichler.

Erwin Jost, of Switzerland, and Hans Gasser, of Austria, were 10th and 11th.

**NEWS OF OLYMPIANS.**

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During the week of a match between and cultured racket players—*the* and *the*—all-round—*the* clearly enjoys every moment with a man in all games—*the* happy and *the* moment there was in *the* player won in *the*







# Poland's unofficial crusade: publish and be free

Hence no lack of enthusiasm at the news that Ann Atkin, a housewife, of West Purford in Devon, is about to unclash the Gnome Club of Great Britain.

I foresee the gnome invasion on all available sightings in the form of a highly sensationalized statement that I am determined not to allow to dim my Christmas revelries.

First, she must find gnome-making firms to act as sponsors: so far only one has been found. Then will come a nagging a band and the inevitable horror, a gnome population chart. This charm will

the BBC has presented a collection of 10 million press cuttings to Leicester University because they are surplus to requirements after a big reorganization of the corporation's news information service. The collection, founded in 1940, covers everything from aborigines to zoos. This essential work has been put out and given away free. The *Times* reports a modest collection of—at the last count—2 million clippings.

If you have wrapped the Christmas presents already, prepare to unwrap them and start again. A great nuisance about this gift-giving business is that recipients have no right to get redress or replacement if the bijou item you bought them happens to be faulty. To save inconvenience, embarrassment and waste of money, take advantage of

As the winter evening falls, more and more German housewives draw the curtains and without asking themselves exactly why light a candle on the sitting room table.

At this time of year the warm flickering glow often rises from an arrangement of fir twigs set with frosted cones and berries. Sometimes these candles are carved into elaborate shapes, others are long and tapering, deep and translucent or fashioned from beeswax and scented faintly of honey.

In many houses an adventsk-

# Bernard Levin's Christmas Quiz

**festive candle**

[illegible]

## Lighting a

## Lighting a festive candle

ran, a fir wreath bearing four candles on for every Sunday in advent hangs by ribbons from the ceiling.

One is lighted the first Sunday, two the next and so on as Christmas approaches.

On Christmas Eve the candles are red, white or beeswax candles, and only candles. Even the most down-to-earth German mother prefers to keep a bucket of water handy rather than "step on electric lights."

On Christmas Eve, the public parks and squares where electric lights are unavoidable they are simulated

white candles with pure white flames.

The demand for candles in West Germany is mounting steadily, while purchases of other consumer goods have levelled off. A record of about 50,000 tons of candles is expected to be burned by the end of this year. Last year it was about 50,000 tons or nearly 2 lb for every man, woman and child.

Prof. Dr. Hans Kötting, head of the Institute for "Religious Folklore at Münster, believes the passion for candles is not merely due to the recent man-

For Prof Korting, candles fulfill an unconscious primal need for a symbol of hope, life and eternity. Just as their pagan ancestors, lit flames as the winter solstice approached hoping for the return of the sun and rescue from darkness, post-Christian Germans in a different but troubled world are turning to candles.

**Patricia Clough**

**Patricia Clough**

# THE TIMES DIARY/PHS

Hence no lack of enthusiasm at the news that Ann Atkin, a housewife, of West Purford in Devon, is about to unclash the Gnome Club of Great Britain.

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the BBC has presented a collection of 10 million press cuttings to Leicester University because they are surplus to requirements after a big reorganization of the corporation's news information service. The collection, founded in 1940, covers everything from abortions to zoos. This item will now be cut out and enshrined in *The Times's* more modest collection of—at the last count—2 million clippings.

herring has little need of doctors." The chairman of the Herring Industry Board, after all, is a retired general practitioner. Nevertheless, they have found the requisite 12 quotations: "It is surprising that one form of fish should have such a literary presence," an adamant PR man told me. "After all, how many references could you find to, say, scampi?"

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All you have to do is to write on the card which you enclose with the present: "To my dear so-and-so with all my love, the sale of Goods Act rights." If you want to be really careful, have the card dated and witnessed. Armed with the rights thus conveyed, your friends and relatives will be able to get satisfaction—even if you have given them a dud.

Four hundred hard-up guineas already receiving rent rebates, are to get a £10 Christmas bonus from Royal Artillery funds.

Mr Brown of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Commission, who was due to address a personnel meeting organized recently by the West Yorkshire. Unfortunately, the Jobcentre letter which gives mentions Mr Brown's incapacity to think: "A colleague of his will be the problem of termination of employment."

as they sound for a certain  
ation and Arbitration Service.  
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## THE PRESIDENT PROPS THE DOLLAR

The immediate effect of President Carter's statement this week was to strengthen the dollar on the foreign exchanges. Although the President's words were not very different from those spoken by his Under-Secretary for Monetary Affairs at the Treasury, Mr Anthony Solomon, just a few weeks earlier, the markets attach more weight to the pronouncements of a President.

They are probably right to do so. The Administration has recently been made acutely aware of the concern overseas at what appeared to be American indifference to the currency upheavals of the last few weeks. Although the dollar has not fallen very far in effective, trade weighted, terms, it has dropped very sharply against the strong European currencies and the Japanese yen. This had begun to pose a serious threat to the exports and growth in those countries.

America would prefer to see internal adjustment and expansion in the surplus countries, most particularly Germany and Japan, rather than to underwrite their trade surpluses and encourage them to preserve undervalued exchange rates. It has therefore been unwilling to join an international support operation for the dollar which would oppose fundamental market forces.

This position has not been changed by President Carter's statement. He has however reaffirmed a commitment to "orderly market conditions".

While some readjustment of currency values was necessary in view of the massive imbalance in payments positions, an international crisis of confidence would be as unwelcome to the Americans as to any other government.

Their friends abroad argued strongly at the Basle meeting of bankers last week, and in other international meetings, that this could be a real possibility. The Federal Reserve Board has hitherto been more sympathetic than the White House or the Treasury. However, the President has recognized that continuing silence from the Government on its exchange rate policy would be taken as a signal for another scramble out of dollars.

A further sharp fall in the dollar's value would probably do little to cut America's trade deficit and, in one important respect, could worsen it considerably. President Carter's statement was not aimed merely at calming European and Japanese nerves. It has been rumoured that Arab ministers now attending the oil exporters conference knew that it was coming. Whether or not this is the case, the President was obviously aware that a continued weakening of the dollar would increase the likelihood of a rise in America's huge oil import bill. This could come about by a switch by OPEC to pricing in other currencies, or through a rise in the quoted dollar price.

A chronically weak dollar would also make the OPEC countries think twice about investing

their revenues in America. A large switch in these funds would throw the world's already shaky monetary system into confusion. There is yet another constituency to which the President aimed his speech. This is the American Congress, which is still dilly-dallying over Mr Carter's energy bill. The conspicuous failure of the United States to curb its voracious appetite for oil has been a major contributing factor to its trade deficit this year. The lack of an energy policy has increased the market's pessimistic view of the outlook for the dollar.

The Administration is not likely to change its view of the need for further economic expansion next year, and it would damage the prospects for world growth if it did. However, there is an urgent need for action to cut American oil imports. The measures announced this week are little more than a gesture in that direction.

Foreign governments have welcomed the President's recognition of America's responsibility to the rest of the world. It is too soon to tell whether the Administration will be willing, in the words of the markets, "to put their money where their mouth is" and intervene if necessary to stop a further fall in the dollar's value.

There is still no reason to suppose that America should carry the whole burden of world expansion, although there is a strong case for believing that the market has overdone the recent fall in the dollar.

## THE FREE FLOW OF SPIRITS IN EUROPE

Those who wish to celebrate Britain's five years of EEC membership next month may find that their favoured brand of whisky costs an extra 50p as a result of the latest ruling of the European Commission in its role as watchdog of the Treaty of Rome. This may seem a poor reward for the country's plunge into the European Economic Community. But in fact the Commission's action against the Distillers' company follows logically from the rules governing the customs union which lies at the commercial heart of the EEC.

Under Distillers' dual price system, the Commission has now banned, United Kingdom wholesalers had to pay more for their Scotch if they wanted to export it. Distillers preferred to sell direct to sole distributors on the Continent, who sold at a price reflecting their warehousing, distribution, advertising and other costs. But this price was in danger of being undercut by "parallel" exporters in the United Kingdom, who bought at a lower price reflecting a series of discounts to large United Kingdom customers.

Hence the premium on Scotch bought in the United Kingdom for export, which the Commission found, following complaints

by the wholesalers, to be in breach of article 85 of the Treaty of Rome. This forbids "restrictions on the application of 'disimilar conditions to equivalent transactions with other trading parties, thereby placing them at a competitive disadvantage'".

Rather than reduce the price for exports, Distillers have resorted by applying to the Price Commission to increase the United Kingdom price for certain brands by fifty pence. The biggest exporting brand, Johnny Walker Red Label, will be withdrawn from the United Kingdom market. The price of Haig, the biggest seller at home, will be kept at its present level in the hope presumably that it will pick up sales lost by the other brands. Haig is thus likely to become the favoured brand of United Kingdom or continental wholesalers buying in the United Kingdom.

The Commission has in the past played an extremely useful role in preventing large companies in a dominant position from carving up the market, either by forming price cartels or by preventing dealers in one member state from exporting to others at prices undercutting arrangements with sole distributors. Previous rulings on clauses preventing exports have covered gramophone records, Philips electric razors and Armagnac.

In the present case of whisky and other spirits, the usefulness of the Commission's action is shrouded in a welter of confusion. Fighting reaction to the Commission had clearly expected a reduction in the export price, rather than an increase in the home price; and secondly, by the huge discrepancies in the retail price of spirits in the Nine caused by differing levels of duty.

In the case of France, Italy and Denmark, these discrepancies are shrouded in favour of domestic spirits and against imports. In all cases except Denmark, however, they result in whisky being cheaper in the shops than in Britain. The distortion in trade resulting from these duties is of a vasty greater order than that resulting from the arrangements limiting exports of the major British manufacturers of spirits (other British firms have similar arrangements which may also be ended).

It is, however, easier to brandish the Treaty of Rome at big firms than at governments. The Commission has been doing its duty, unpalatable though the result may prove to be. One day, perhaps, it will have the nerve to tackle the member states about the larger obstacles to the genuinely free flow of spirits within the community.

## CHAOS IN THE STUDIO IS NOT DISCUSSION

Over the past month, interrupted briefly by legal proceedings, commercial television has shown three hour-long programmes, the work of Mr Antony Thomas, on various aspects of the apartheid regime in South Africa. They made powerful, passionate and, in parts, deeply moving viewing. Mr Thomas was clearly shocked by much of what he saw and the programmes reflected his abhorrence of a system which can produce the results he so vividly demonstrated. It is not in issue that he produced excellent pieces of television journalism. What has been questioned, however, is his journalistic objectivity and integrity. Part of one of the programmes has now become the subject of further legal proceedings at the suit of Tate and Lyle, who believe that their programme has been defamed by various allegations made about their treatment of their black workers. The series as a whole was discussed by a panel and a number of studio guests in a programme shown on Wednesday night.

That discussion did a great disservice to the important issues which the series had raised. The panel consisted of Mr Thomas,

Mr van der Walt, the Director of Information of the South African Embassy in London, and Mr Louis Luyt, one of South Africa's most prominent Afrikaner businessmen. The audience was made up of two or three dozen people with particular interest in South Africa. They included a former white political prisoner, a black trade union leader, a man who was about to emigrate to that country, some who had returned in disgust, a spokesman for the black consciousness cause, a white doctor who had worked in a hospital for blacks, a businessman with financial interest in the republic, a Conservative MP, and representatives of virtually every other conceivable opinion on South African matters. The result of all of these people trying to have their say was, predictably, chaotic.

The format of the programme made it inevitable that none of the serious issues which begged to be seriously discussed was covered, except sporadically and superficially, and that none of the questions which should have been put to Mr Thomas, and answered by him, was allowed more than a brief airing. Most of the audience raised points and made comments of complete

irrelevance to the programmes supposedly under scrutiny. Mr van der Walt, who looked capable of having an intelligent and informative debate with Mr Thomas, if permitted, was scarcely allowed to make even the most cursory of remarks before the chairman felt bound to cut him off in order to give others a turn.

It was not the fault of the chairman, but of the format, that what should have been an intelligent debate on an important topic turned into a succession of disjointed, undistinguished and sometimes silly statements. The BBC as well as ITV have allowed a number of issues of moment to be intellectually destroyed by subjecting them to the same kind of treatment. The result, in every case, has been the same. The format has made it impossible to have a reasoned debate. It is a sign of poverty of imagination and judgment of the television companies that they have persisted for so long in promoting argumentative discussion programmes of so little value. It is particularly unfortunate that Mr Thomas's powerful series which raised vital issues and deserved and required serious examination should have been treated in this way.

## BBC wavelength changes

From Mr M. G. Scroggie  
Sir, Howard Newby, in his article (December 15) explaining the forthcoming changes in BBC radio wavelengths, makes it all sound very reassuring for listeners. I have a few points, however, which I would like to raise. In the first place, I notice that he mentions in passing that the Radio 4 channel on VHF is used also for educational matter instead of some Radio 4 programmes. So would be listeners to those programmes, some of which are extremely popular, will in practice have no alternative to long waves. These waves are much more subject to noise interference than medium waves. And both long and medium provide only a second class service, being mono only and restricted in tone range compared with VHF. So can claim no place in a "hi-fi" system.

Years ago the BBC advised listeners to go for VHF for all channels; those who did so are now

—and in the new plan—unable to receive parts of the Radio 4 service.

The obvious solution is to use a separate VHF channel for the educational broadcasts. Internationally, VHF frequencies between 88 and 100 MHz are allocated for broadcasting. In this country, however, those from 95 to 100 are withheld from broadcasters. If this were not so, all the Radio 4 programmes could be broadcast on VHF, with education on its own new channel. Another important advantage of an all-VHF receiver is the ease with which it can be designed for push button operation, instead of forcing on listeners the quite difficult as well as tedious operation of tuning in. It will be more difficult still next year, with obsolete station markings on the tuning scales. Yours faithfully, M. G. SCROGGIE, 12 Pinewoods, Bexhill, December 15.

## The courteous gull

From Mrs Caroline Oliver  
Sir, From a window in Bloomsbury I can see a tarmac surrounded by a dome, surrounded by a stone ball. On the top of the ball is a tiny platform, possibly made of gum. On winter mornings the platform is occupied almost continuously by gulls, but never for long by the same one. The changeover rate can be as high as three a minute. The incumbent gull almost always flies in from the east. On a few occasions I have seen the dispossessed gull sail rapidly round and regain its position. Just once, I saw an approach from the side, which was dealt with successfully by the incumbent with a scaly. The resultant noise looked momentarily very dangerous. Yours faithfully, CAROLINE OLIVER, 7 Cranfield House, Southampton Row, WC1.

## Future of the Moors murderers

From Mr Michael Cates  
Sir, In his article "Is there any Chance of Myra Hindley ever being freed?" (December 21), Bernard Levin, as usual, builds up a superficially convincing argument by basing it on an assumption which he ruthlessly claims is "obvious". I refer to the passage: "The deterrent effect of the life sentence on Miss Hindley and Mr Brady for the appalling crimes of which they were both justly convicted is, and always was, obvious." Mr Levin argues that people of the sort that commit atrocities like the Moors murders are unlikely to be deterred by the prospect of a life sentence. Whilst this is undoubtedly correct, he obviously fails to comprehend that the deterrent effect of a sentence operates on a far broader range of potential criminals than just those who might go for which the sentence was given.

Thus the potential rapist, mugger, common murderer, etc., will, if Miss Hindley is released, say to himself: "She only got a medium sized screw for the things she did, so for my far less horrible crime they cannot put me away even for that long."

As the deterrent factor has to be diminished by Mr Levin before the rest of his article can be taken as relevant, his entire argument that, if Myra Hindley is not dangerous, only political pressures will bring her release, is seen to collapse. Yours etc, MICHAEL CATES, 11 Cedar Park, Bristol, December 21.

From Mr P. D. R. Talbot Willcox  
Sir, Mr Levin's article deserves criticism for the following reasons: 1. The article is a welcome confession of crime with sin. Miss Hindley is in prison for crime. Whether or not she is a question upon which the churches have no obligation to offer an opinion, and I for one would be astonished were they to do so.

2. Mr Levin has failed to show that the impulses which lead to crimes of the sort committed by Miss Hindley are beyond deterrence. He merely asserts a popular myth. 3. He is completely ignorant of the fact that the deterrent effect of a sentence is not proof of reform.

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4. He ignores the risk imposed upon society by a Home Secretary who released such a woman. I am not saying that the risk should never be taken, but that it should not be overlooked.

Meanwhile reports on Miss Hindley's behaviour from prison authorities and others and even the most convincing evidence of repentance would never satisfy me that there was not a major risk in releasing a person who, in Mr Levin's own words, was "capable of carrying out sadistic practices of the kind involved in their case", and who might well be "incapable of weighing the consequences for their victims"—a person the origins of whose impulses were "buried deep in the human psyche". How can we be sure they have been dug up? Indeed can they ever be dug up?

In such circumstances it is not perhaps fortunate that the law provides in practice for an element of discretion? For if a child or a person behaves in an appalling fashion there comes a time when retribution is salutary, necessary and right. A "sane" person, even a person who has been "dug up", would be too dangerous to release. Yours faithfully, P. D. R. TALBOT WILLCOX, Thamescroft, Shamley Green, Guildford, Surrey, December 21.

From Monsignor Bruce Kent  
Sir, Perhaps Mr Levin is not really fair to "high church dignitaries". I have never heard of one supporting any theory of life-long retributive incarceration. Paul announced the 1975 Holy Year, echoing the book of Leviticus, he appealed to governments for the early release of prisoners—even those guilty of crimes of violence. He asked for a "gesture of clemency, applicable especially to those 'who have given sufficient proof of their moral and civil rehabilitation'".

Myra Hindley not excluded. Yours faithfully, BRUCE KENT, 20 Phoenix Road, NW1, December 22.

The Unification Church  
From Mr K. P. Frampton  
Sir, Your recent article on the doctrines and practices of the Unification Church is a welcome contribution to the growing public concern over the activities of the many modern cults, which plague our society today.

Having suffered personally from these cults I have supported both John Hunt and Paul Rose in their valiant struggle to expose their excesses in the House, in the hope of some legislation to suppress such a dangerous and completely changed in personality or mentally deranged.

Meanwhile, the law of our land is powerless to stop this gross abuse of liberty, or as the cults claim "freedom of religion and the principles of our free society". The Home Office, the Police and the Charity Commissioners know of these abuses but refuse to take decisive action.

In a democratic society the individual needs protection against those who use the law (or lack of it) to proselytize by methods which are clearly contrary to the public interest. This would reduce these megalomaniac cults to size, and protect our citizens, young and old, from their evil designs. Yours sincerely, K. P. FRAMPTON, Chairman of Trustees, Den Gloria Trust, Silver Grove, Silver Lane, Surrey.

From Mr Rhys Manley-Sale  
Sir, If your publication had existed at a somewhat earlier date, it might not have received similar letters from distraught mothers and representatives of the established religion concerning the aggressively evangelistic activities of a completely non-sect led by an ex-tax collector named Paul?

Yours faithfully, REYS MANLEY-SALE, 10 Burstock Road, SW15.

Machiavellian  
From Mr Jan Le Witt  
Sir, During the recorded conversation (article, December 20) that took place recently in Florence between your interviewer and Signor Niccolò Machiavelli, Dr John Rae asked the question: "But you would not deny that man has made some progress?" to which Machiavelli allegedly replied: "Is it progress if a cannibal uses knife and fork?"

It is a pity that Dr Rae failed to pin Machiavelli down, for to put the record straight this superbly ironic aphorism did not take root in Machiavelli's cunning mind but was in fact coined by Spenshaw Lee, a Polish poet and aphorist who lived some 430 odd years after the proverbial Florentine "pessimist". Yours faithfully, JAN LE WITT, 117 Ledbury Road, Holland Park, W11, December 20.

From the Reverend Roger Symon  
Sir, I am sorry to read that even Machiavelli is going soft in the head in his old age. In answer to John Rae's question: "Man is irredeemably wicked?" he is recorded as having replied: "Yes, I wish it were not so." Why so? No wonder the Church survives. Yours faithfully, ROGER SYMON, 1 Porchester Gardens, W2, December 20.

The Mostyn flagons  
From Mr Claude Blair  
Sir, My old friend Arthur Grimwade's letter (December 21), written

## Continuation of the Lib-Lab pact

From Mr Stephen Ross, MP for the Isle of Wight (Liberal)  
Sir, Whoever it is who talks freely to the press about private meetings of the Parliamentary Liberal Party could do it to the advantage of getting his facts right. I have little doubt, speaking as one who was present last Wednesday week, that had a vote been taken at our morning session there would have been a majority against breaking off the agreement with the Government forthwith.

For what it is worth my own backing for the Steel strategy remains undiminished. Yours faithfully, STEPHEN ROSS, House of Commons, December 20.

From Lord O'Hagan  
Sir, Mr Hamilton (December 19)

1. The Lib-Lab pact has delayed European elections; the Conservatives would have kept to the target date.

2. The Liberal Party has sustained in office an anti-European and unrepresentative Labour Government long enough to give it a chance of winning another election.

3. The virulent anti-market forces in the Labour Government have blackened Britain's name in the Community; Tory anti is in a small minority, and would at least behave better when abroad.

4. Mr Hamilton threatens to take to the streets to fight for representative democracy. Perhaps the crowds will miss under the

oriflamme of proportional representation. They are more likely to remember that the Liberals kept Messrs Foot and Benn in power. Yours faithfully, O'HAGAN, Sutton Court, Penford, Bristol, December 19.

From Mr R. S. Swann  
Sir, Even though it has been decided that our elections for the European Assembly will be on the "first past the post" system, need we despair of holding them in mid-1978 as all the Community member Governments wish?

Serious delay is inevitable if we use the traditional Boundary Commission method to delimit the 81 "European" constituencies. And, as it is certain as anything political can be that this operation would apply only to the first of these elections, some alternative to this admirably fair but ponderous and expensive operation can surely be found. In 1947 Sir Cyril Radcliffe, as he then was, completed the task of drawing new boundaries for India and Pakistan in little more than a month. It involved immense complexities—both religious and economic—but the boundaries he drew practically single handed have endured to this day.

To group the existing 635 parliamentary constituencies into 81 should be a comparatively child's play. Why not entrust a single senior judge with this task? Yours faithfully, ROBERT S. SWANN, 6 Collingham Gardens, SW5.

## Manslaughter verdict

From Mr John Hampden Inskip, QC, and Mr Christopher Clark  
Sir, In view of certain extravagant public statements made about the sentence in the recent case of R v Liddle at Winchester Crown Court, may we endeavour to put the record straight.

The jury in the case were asked to give a special verdict as to the grounds on which their manslaughter verdict was reached. Consistent with the special verdict given were the following propositions of fact.

1. The accused came across the body of the deceased lying at the side of a country lane.

2. On examining the body he thought it was dead.

3. He had reasonable grounds for believing the deceased had been knocked down by a car driven by his co-accused and taken without the owner's consent a few minutes earlier.

The Star of Bethlehem  
From Dr D. H. Clark and others  
Sir, The Bishop of Kingston (December 20) is correct in pointing out that we were not the first to find evidence for the Star of Bethlehem in Far Eastern records. Neither we, nor The Times Religious Affairs Correspondent, have ever claimed that we were the originators of a possible link between a nova in the B.C. and the previous authors cited by the Bishop have made no more than passing references to such an association and have not pursued it further. Our work is the first detailed interpretation of the records and we would claim that our searches (like those of the original Wise Men) have been concluded successfully.

Unfortunately the Bishop does not appear to have read our paper entitled "An Astronomical Re-appraisal of the Star of Bethlehem" which was published in the Quarterly Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society. As astronomers, we concentrated our attention on the Astronomical Treatise of the Chinese astronomer, rather than the Annals, where the poem, referred to by the Bishop, is recorded. From studies of eclipses,

planetary conjunctions, etc. we have shown that reports in the Astronomical Treatise are generally of high reliability whereas reports in the Annals are of doubtful origin and dubious reliability.

It is pleasing that we and the Bishop do appear to be in agreement that the Star of Bethlehem had stellar, rather than a planetary origin. We remain, Sir, the Three Wise Men from the West. DAVID H. CLARK, Principal Research Fellow, Astrophysics Division, Royal Greenwich Observatory, Herstmonceux Castle, Hailsham, Sussex; JOHN H. PARKINSON, Lecturer in Astrophysics, Mullard Space Science Laboratory, Department of Physics & Astronomy, University College London, Holmbury St Mary, Dorking, Surrey; P. RICHARD STEPHENSON, Research Associate, Institute of Lunar and Planetary Sciences, School of Physics, University of Newcastle, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Publishers are not the only ones at fault. Smaller booksellers must get into the habit of using wholesalers to give a better service. Booksellers must act in consortia to set up their own bulk buying and wholesaling operations like the "village shops"—20 years ago; if they do not do this, many of the small shops will not survive. Wholesalers must refrain from the temptation only to stock the easier selling lists and employ people with enough bookkeeping experience to choose and maintain the sophisticated stock required by a large public. It has to be acknowledged, however, that it is unlikely that they will be able to hold, for resale, many academic or technical books.

Mr Cable has expressed the frustration which is felt by individual readers as well as librarians and other professional librarians in the context of books, publishers, and booksellers is a qualitative measurement which we can be proud of, but only if it leads to combined action to frustrate lethargy and incompetence. Yours faithfully, CHARLES HAMMICK, Chairman and Managing Director, "Hammicks", 16 Newnham Lane, Alton.

Prospect at The Old Vic  
From Mr Toby Robertson  
Sir, Your drama critic's review of The Actors' Company's production of The Importance of Being Earnest at the Round House begins with the sentence: "With the Prospect Theatre Company's entrenchment at the Old Vic, there is likely to be increasing scope for any troupe that can count itself to touring and productions around neglected provincial areas." This implies that with Prospect at the Vic there is less likelihood of Prospect working from the Vic. I hope you will allow me to correct this misconception.

With Prospect working from the Vic the company will tour more, less productions to the regions. Quality as well as quantity will be improved: already this autumn the

company working from the Vic has broken box office records for straight drama in four regional centres.

I hope the Actors' Company will continue to tour and thereby complement the work that Prospect has done as the one company which has consistently toured the major theatres in the regions since 1969.

With the Vic as a metropolitan base, Prospect will be able, not only to develop the company's work in the regions but also to sustain the Old Vic in London, a theatre which has an unrivalled record of service to London and the regions. Yours faithfully, TOBY ROBERTSON, Director, Prospect Theatre Company, The Old Vic Annex, 83 The Cut, SE1.



















## Stock Exchange Prices

## Buildings firm

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec. 12. Dealings End, Dec. 30. § Contango Day, Jan. 3. Settlement Day, Jan. 11.

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

[illegible]



# Property developers' tax avoidance scheme fails

**Anyev v Inland Revenue Commissioners**  
**Manoless v IRC**  
Before Mr Justice Brown-Wilkinson

[Judgment delivered December 21]

A series of property and company share exchange transactions which were deliberately artificial devices of great complexity carried out for the sole object of avoiding tax resulted in the Crown being obliged to pay in consequence of a transaction in securities and thus enabled the Crown to counteract such advantages under the provisions of sections 461 and 462 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act, 1970.

His Lordship so held in dismissing appeals by the taxpayers, Mr Simon Anyev and Victor Manoless, from decisions of special commissioners that notices issued to them under section 460 (3) were valid. The assessments to income tax for the years 1970-71, based on the sums of £431,300 and £22,700 respectively, were also confirmed.

The scheme involved a widely used "off-the-peg" tax avoidance scheme that involves in total many millions of pounds and was purchased by the taxpayers from specialist tax advisers, Messrs C. N. Bortle, QC, and Mr D. C. Potter, QC, for the taxpayers; Mr J. E. Vintall, QC, and Mr Brian Davenport for the Crown.

HIS LORDSHIP, in a reserved judgment, said that the question was whether the taxpayers had obtained tax advantages in consequence of a transaction in securities and thus enabling the Crown to counteract such advantages under the provisions of sections 461 and 462.

Section 461 set out in broad terms circumstances one or other of which had to be satisfied before section 462 could operate. Once section 461 had been satisfied, then if in consequence of a transaction in securities a taxpayer was in a position to obtain any of the advantages mentioned in section 462, the Crown was able to counteract such advantages by making an assessment.

There had undoubtedly been a transaction in securities; the questions which had to be decided were (a) whether the case fell within any of the advantages mentioned in section 462, and if so (b) whether the taxpayers had obtained a tax advantage in consequence of the transaction in securities.

The taxpayers owned the share capital of K Ltd, which in 1970 had acquired a property at Boode for development. K Ltd was a subsidiary of P Ltd, a property company, a six-year renewable lease of the property at full market rent for the purpose of the development. The taxpayers, Mr Anyev and Mr Manoless, were shareholders in P Ltd. K Ltd had agreed with K Developments Ltd (also wholly owned by the taxpayers) for the development of the property for £719,500. At the same time K Ltd granted a 250-year lease of the property to K Developments Ltd at a price of £1,309,535 that was to be paid at the rate of £100 a year for 249 years with a reversion to the taxpayers of £1,284,635 to fall due in the year

2219. The unpaid premium carried interest at current market rates. The purpose behind the scheme was to enable the taxpayers to avoid the corporation tax for 250 years by virtue of section 80 of the 1970 Act.

The day after the grant of the lease it was agreed that K Developments should purchase the freehold reversion of the property from K Ltd for £1,000 and the leasehold interest from M Ltd for £1,310,535 (but retaining the benefit of M Ltd's debt for the outstanding premium). Thereafter P Ltd immediately transferred its shares to K Ltd and K Ltd sold the benefit of M Ltd's outstanding debt to an investment company for full value.

The result was that K Ltd was left with a profit of £440,018, added to the free from betterment levy and with corporation tax only payable in 250 years' time.

At some stage K Ltd paid £69,950 to a company that was owned by two of the taxpayers, Mr C. M. Bradman and Mr Bernard Fowler (who also owned and controlled P Ltd and K Ltd). It had been agreed that this was payment for the carrying through of the tax-avoidance scheme. However, some doubts as to the genuineness of the transaction existed because the parties negotiated further transactions, namely the share transactions by which the taxpayers transferred all their shares in K Ltd for the whole issued share capital of P Ltd. In consequence, P Ltd obtained a share premium account of £456,540. K Ltd, having previously elected to pay income tax on dividends paid by it to P Ltd, declared and paid a dividend of £454,000 to P Ltd in K Developments.

Following a Treasury warning in 1971, Section 81 of the Finance Act 1972, made corporation tax payable on unrealised gains. But because of K Ltd's distribution of virtually all its assets to P Ltd, the sum of £454,000 was not payable to pay any tax at all. It was in those circumstances that the notices were issued to the taxpayers under section 460 (3) and consequential assessments to income tax and surtax made on them. Their appeals against both the notices and the assessments were subsequently rejected by the special commissioners.

If the taxpayers "in connection with the distribution of profits of a company" received or had received an abnormal amount by way of dividend, then the distribution was treated as a dividend. The taxpayers were satisfied that section 461D could be brought into play. For the taxpayers, the distribution of the dividend by K Ltd to P Ltd was a distribution of profits to the taxpayers. The taxpayers received P Ltd's shares (representing assets available for distribution by way of dividend) in a not-taxable transaction.

The sole issue on circumstance D was whether the receipt by the taxpayers of the shares was "in connection with the distribution of profits of a company". In granting a 250-year lease of the property to K Developments Ltd at a price of £1,309,535 that was to be paid at the rate of £100 a year for 249 years with a reversion to the taxpayers of £1,284,635 to fall due in the year

## New review of conveyancing fees

**Treasury Solicitor v Registrar and Another**  
Before Mr Justice Donaldson

[Judgment delivered December 21]

Under section 21 of the Solicitors' Remuneration Act 1975, the Registrar of Solicitors, Mr J. P. Purvis, a solicitor, was asked to make a review of the fees charged by solicitors for conveyancing work. The Registrar was asked to make a review of the fees charged by solicitors for conveyancing work. The Registrar was asked to make a review of the fees charged by solicitors for conveyancing work.

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case two companies were involved and the share exchange carried out in such a way that the taxpayers received P Ltd's shares in a taxable way and Lord Wilberforce's test would have been satisfied.

In answer the taxpayers said that such a transaction would have been so unusual and extra-ordinary that the court should not assume its possibility. That could not be accepted, especially from the present case. The court was asked to assume that the taxpayers had such a procedure offered tax advantage to the taxpayers there was no reason to suppose they would not have done so. The court was asked to assume that the taxpayers had such a procedure offered tax advantage to the taxpayers there was no reason to suppose they would not have done so.

Bearing in mind that, following IRC v Jolly (1975) 1 WLR 1701 sections 460 and 461 had to be construed as a single legislative act, without regard to their legislative history, the clear implication was that the mere receipt of shares could constitute, and in the present case did, the obtaining of a tax advantage. Nor was such a conclusion wholly unreasonable. The taxpayers had received a new form of property capital of being sold. Moreover, by establishing a share premium account in P Ltd, the share exchange might have prevented any short-term assessments being made on P Ltd.

His Lordship expressed concern that the transaction by the Crown seemed to be a genuine one, and the taxpayers, who were probably unable to obtain spendable cash without incurring further tax liability, were being taxed, though they had received freely spendable cash by way of dividend. That seemed to be the unfortunate consequence of the taxpayers' artificial device of great complexity which had tax avoidance as its sole object.

Two subsidiary points raised by the taxpayers were considered on them under section 460 (3) were defective and that the commissioners had no jurisdiction to add to the assessment to income tax and surtax could not be upheld.

The commissioners' decision was correct and the appeals dismissed. Solicitors: Barvill, Leighton; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

on the fairness and reasonableness of the final figure. The final figure would result from an examination of the evidence, and whatever additional cross-check might be required.

The court also considered that the Registrar had acted reasonably in the use of the figure which he assumed the court had assessed for the remaining factors in the Registrar's assessment. The Registrar was asked to make a review of the fees charged by solicitors for conveyancing work.

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Chancery Division

## REPUBLICA ARGENTINA REPUBLICA DEL PARAGUAY ENTIDAD BINACIONAL YACYRETA

**PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS  
AND CONSORTIA OF CONTRACTORS FOR  
CONSTRUCTION OF THE YACYRETA  
HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT**

The Entidad Binacional Yacyreta, constituted in accordance with Article 111 of the Treaty signed on December 1, 1973, by the Argentine Republic and the Republic of Paraguay, will receive prequalification information from interested contractors and consortia of contractors for the construction of the main civil works of the Yacyreta Hydroelectric Project, located on the Parana River at the Yacyreta Island. The main features of the project are:

**INSTALLED CAPACITY:**  
1st Stage: 20 MW  
2nd Stage: 15 additional MW  
**Total:** 35 MW

**RATED NET HEAD:** 20M  
Volume of concrete construction and steel reinforcement: 2,500,000 m<sup>3</sup>  
Total length of dam: 70 km

This invitation for prequalification is public and international and open to contractors and consortia of contractors who are highly specialized in the construction of large hydroelectric projects. The interested contractors and consortia of contractors should submit a prequalification form to the Entidad Binacional Yacyreta, located on the Parana River at the Yacyreta Island. The prequalification form should be submitted by the deadline of January 10, 1978, at 12 noon, for the first stage of the project.

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CONTRACTS AND TENDERS

TREASURY DEPARTMENT  
ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT OIL FIELDS  
YACIMIENTOS PETROLIFEROS FISCALES  
SOCIEDAD DEL ESTADO  
REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA

## INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC TENDER NUMBER 05-1/77

**Buying of Four New Tank Vessels, Unused,  
to Transport Crude Oil**

**DEADWEIGHT: 30.000 TO 35.000 TONNES APPROXIMATELY  
DRAUGHT MOULDED DESIGN: 36 FEET PLUS-MINUS 2 FEET.  
BREADTH MOULDED MAXIMUM: 30 METRES  
LENGTH OVERALL MAXIMUM: 215 METRES**

Tender will be opened on January 18, 1978, at 14.30 p.m. local time, in our headquarters, sited in Avenue Roque Saenz Pena 777 (13th Floor), Buenos Aires, Argentina and simultaneously in our commercial and technical office in Houston (Texas) Richmond Building, Suite 710, 3616 Richmond Avenue-Houston, Texas (U.S.A.) at 11.30 a.m. local time.

Cost of Tender Conditions: US\$2,000.  
All questions and the selling must be made in the above mentioned in working dates and hours.  
Offers for this tender will be received up to January 17, 1978 at 3.30 p.m. Houston Time.

EDUCATIONAL  
C.E.E. DEGREE and Professional  
DIPLOMA in Television Studies  
DIPLOMA in Television Studies  
DIPLOMA in Television Studies

PUBLIC NOTICES  
THE ROYAL ALBION HOSPITAL  
THE ROYAL ALBION HOSPITAL  
THE ROYAL ALBION HOSPITAL

PROPOSALS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SHIP'S  
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